Palace offering ambassadorship to Misuari, says JDV

STORY ON PAGE A5

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2001 ★ 68 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 272 P15

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ROCES

Gloria's temper flares over 'wrong info' on rice

EDWIN BACASMAS

RAGING belle: "I was fed the wrong information." "What was the wrong information fed to me?" "I never said the rice was not moving." "The rice is moving too slow."

By Donna S. Cueto

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's tempet flared over 1.2 million sacks of imported US rice stored in a private warehouse that she had ordered disposed of immediately.

The President yesterday banged her hand on the podium when told at her press conference that National Food Authority (NFA) Administrator Tony Abad had claimed that she was fed "wrong information" about the rice.

She immediately instructed her staff to call up Abad so he could tell her straight what wrong information had been fed to her.

"I was fed the wrong information? *Ah naku!* Call up Tony Abad!" she said.

The President confronted Abad when he was contacted on the phone.

"What was the wrong information fed to me? I never said that the rice was not moving. The rice is moving too slowly, so I had to speed it up. Didn't we talk about that," she told Abad.

"Therefore I was not fed the wrong information," she snapped.

The President was concerned that there were

GLORIA/ A16

Rosebud bares bribe try

Acop counters: She tried to blackmail me

By Carlito Pablo

EX-UNDERCOVER agent Mary Ong yesterday accused former NarcGroup head Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop and "somebody higher" of offering her a P10-million bribe to recant her allegations against Sen. Panfilo Lacson and his associates.

Sought for comment, Acop retorted that Ong had tried to blackmail him by demanding P6 million in exchange for keeping his name out of her exposé against police officers.

"Ong wanted me to sign an affidavit prepared by her lawyer that would pin down (Supt. John Campos) for drug trafficking," Acop said, referring to Ong's former handler and lover.

But Ong, alias "Rosebud," alleged that a lawyer representing Acop and his unnamed superior offered her the P10 million in August. She did not identify the lawyer.

She told reporters that the two wanted her to exonerate them and pin down only Campos, a former NarcGroup liaison with other countries' drug enforcement units.

She said the recent attempt was just one of a series of bribe offers since last year when she surfaced to accuse Lacson, Acop and their subordinates of high crimes like drug trafficking, kidnapping and summary executions.

Ong smiled broadly when asked by defense reporters whether the "somebody higher" was Lacson.

The former agent showed reporters what she said was a draft of a sworn statement prepared by lawyer Den Tuvera, a former police captain, upon Acop's orders. The statement specified that she would clear Acop and implicate only Campos.

The draft also implicated Campos' "bagman," Ritchie Watanabe, according to Ong.

She claimed that she was offered P2 million to sign the document in December 2000, a few weeks after

ROSEBUD/ A17

Mary Ong: HK cop helping Ping

MARY "Rosebud" Ong yesterday disclosed an alleged attempt by a British officer in the Hong Kong police to dissuade her from implicating Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino in organized crime activities.

Ong said Ron Abbott, a senior detective of the Hong Kong Police Narcotics Bureau, phoned her last February and asked her to drop the charges against Lacson and Aquino.

Ong also said Abbott was furnishing Lacson and his associates, particularly Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, with "confidential" records of the Hong Kong police aimed at destroying her credibility.

"Is Abbott doing this in an official capacity?" Ong said. "That's why I'm asking the Hong Kong police to look into this."

Asked for comment, Acop said Abbott was indeed helping them "in terms of information gathering."

Acop said the Hong Kong police was monitoring developments in the Senate hearings on allegations that Lacson was involved in drug trafficking, money laundering, smuggling and summary executions.

Acop pointed out that Hong Kong's interest stemmed from reports that drug lords based in the former British colony were involved in the drug trade in the Philippines.

Acop, however, pointed out that Hong Kong police authorities had dismissed a number of claims made by Ong and military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus as baseless.

Acop acknowledged Lacson's closeness to Abbott himself. .

"Abbott does not trust anybody here except Lacson," Acop said.

Acop maintained that Ong was a member of the Chinese Triad who sought to infiltrate the PNP and sow intrigue.

"Ping Lacson is now using his networks abroad, particularly in Hong Kong and the United States, against us," Ong said.

In a briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, Ong said Abbott was a "*compadre*" of both Lacson and deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"I would not be surprised if Abbott comes out to discredit me

MARY/ A16

'Never, never love your agent'

By Carlito Pablo

IN THE shady underworld of spies, there are some rules that a "handler," the intelligence officer in charge of a civilian agent or informant, must strictly follow.

"One, never, never fall in love with your agent," retired Commodore Ismael Aparri, a former commandant of the Special Intelligence Training School for military personnel, said in a recent interview.

He pointed out that the handler must be able

NEVER/ A17

Lacson's 'Chan report' authentic, says Campos

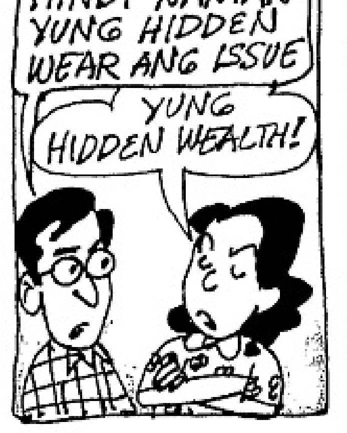
By Christine Avendaño and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

NARCOTICS Group officer Supt. John Campos yesterday said he believes that a controversial "secret" report discrediting ex-civilian agent Mary Ong is authentic because it was leaked to him by his sources at the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (Isafp).

Campos, however, said he did not give his copy to Sen. Panfilo Lacson, adding that the former Philippine National Police chief secured another copy from other police officers in Camp Crame.

The senator stood by his claim that his copy of the report, supposedly authored by Col. Mario Chan, was genuine, following an Inquirer banner story quoting Chan as saying that the document had been doctored and that the derogatory comments about Ong had been "added" to the original.

LACSON/ A16



HINDI NAMAN YUNG HIDDEN WEAR ANG ISSUE
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For panties at P1,000 each, Binay wife sues

By C. V. Esguerra

THE WIFE of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay has slapped Pinoy Times with a libel suit because of panties costing P1,000 each, according to one of the respondents.

Elenita Binay, herself a former mayor of the city,

BINAY/ A16

Basilan probe demoralizing to AFP–GMA

By Martin P. Marfil and Cathy C. Yamsuan

THE TESTIMONY of witnesses on the alleged collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf during the siege of Lamitan in Basilan is "demoralizing" to the Armed Forces, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

That was the only comment the President made when she was asked yesterday at her press conference whether the testimony of the witnesses had eroded the credibility of the earlier "internal investigation" that cleared the military.

"Well, let me tell you, it's demoralizing to the military," she told reporters.

The President also said that it was "a matter for the congressmen and senators to work on," referring to the separate inquiries being conducted by the Senate and the House of Representatives. "I don't have to comment on an investigation being done by an independent body," she added.

The morale of the military and police has lately been the focus of some concern in view of reports of a brewing coup plot.

The President has visited both organizations a number of times in the past days.

Asked if the visits were part of a "loyalty check," the President said, "Of course not. *Mahal ko sila kaya ko binibisita sila* (I love them, that's why I visit them)."

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said the Senate committees on national defense and security and on justice and human rights were not yet done with the investigation of the alleged collusion.

"There are so many facets that we still have to look into. And we need to call more witnesses," he said in a phone interview yesterday with the Inquirer.

BASILAN/ A16

BLESSINGS from Cardinal Sin for Fr. Cirilo Nacorda who has accused the military deployed in Lamitan, Basilan, of conniving with the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

MALULUGI DAW TAYO!

MONEY-LAUNDERING BILL

Sanctions poised vs RP but senators undaunted

BY CATHY YAMSUAN

DELAYED export transactions. Higher remittance costs.

For a country dependent on exports and income from overseas workers, the looming failure of Congress to pass an anti-money laundering law by Sept. 30, the deadline set by an international task force, may mean severe sanctions on local banks.

But senators were unmoved by the doomsday scenario painted by resource persons invited to a joint hearing at the Senate.

"You don't expect the committee to believe that s__t," panel chair Joker Arroyo told reporters after the hearing.

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida testified that if the deadline imposed by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force is not met, foreign banks will likely ask for additional documentary requirements from depositors in Manila as a safeguard against money laundering. These requirements, in turn, could delay bank transactions.

Calida and representatives from the banking sector were called to a joint hearing of the Senate committees on public accountability (blue ribbon) and on banks, financial institutions and currencies. Calida is part of an inter-agency team that drafted a proposed anti-money laundering bill on which the Senate measure is based.

Senate finance chair John Osmeña also attended the hearing and downplayed the gloomy forecast.

"Senators were warned of the adverse effects if we failed to pass the Visiting Forces Agreement. It was the same when we were still studying the (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade-World Trade Organization)," Osmeña recalled.

"All these years, we were made to understand the VFA will bring in military equipment and other rosy promises but where are these now? And now here (Malacañang's representatives) are again scaring us," he said.

List of nations

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday told reporters that, after the task force placed the Philippines on its list of nations deemed "uncooperative" in the global war on money laundering, cash remittances by overseas Filipino workers and export transactions began to suffer from new delays.

If Manila cannot act before the deadline, "they will check and double check transactions which will worsen the delays," Tiglao said.

Calida submitted a paper to the Senate indicating that the cost of delay in OFW remittances would add up to P65 million a day.

"Money transfers and settlements of accounts between the Philippines and the US can be subjected to additional requirements. These could be in the form of additional documents, or proofs of legitimacy of the underlying transactions," portions of the paper read.

"Additional transactions and lengthy processing will place additional burden (on) traders. Moreover, given the advances in information and communications technology, it would be relatively easy for the Federal Reserve Board and the US Treasury to issue alert status (real or imagined) for Philippine transactions."

Calida said overseas worker remittances in particular are vulnerable as "(t)hese may be subjected to electronic postings or clearings in the guise of verifications."

Aside from OFW remittance losses, other potential losses may include:

- Transaction costs due to documentary delays in imports estimated at P116 million a day
- Transaction costs due to delays in exports processing, at P169 million a day
- Potential revenue loss in tourism of P2.5 billion a year, if an estimated 200,000 American tourists with an average stay of three days are discouraged from coming to the Philippines because of delays in money transfers.

"More than the immediate monetary damage, there will be injury in terms of tarnished image for failure to deliver (money transfers) on time. This could lead to shifts in business away from the Philippines," the paper read.

Consolidated bills

Tiglao said that despite the Congress going on recess, the legislature would continue to hold discussions to consolidate about a dozen bills into one single measure against money laundering before the end-of-month deadline.

The government was even prepared to make representations with the task force if Congress is unable to enact a law by Sept. 30, he said.

"It's not a kind of door that has been closed and you can't open for sometime," he added.

But Tiglao said the government was worried the task force might take a long time to remove the Philippines from the "uncooperative" list even if the delay in meeting the deadline is slight.

"What we are a bit worried about is whether the task force itself would be able to meet very soon if we miss the Sept. 30 deadline," he said.

Ultra-strict bank secrecy laws have made the Philippines an attractive money laundering haven, Filipino officials acknowledge. *With a report from AFP*

'Comfort women' on GMA agenda

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday she would take up demands for compensation by Filipinas forced into serving as sex slaves by Japan's occupation forces, as part of her agenda when she visits Tokyo next week.

"We will take it up in Japan," Arroyo replied when asked about the "comfort women" issue at a news conference.

She did not elaborate.

Arroyo is due to visit Japan from Sept. 12 to 15, during which she will hold her first talks with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and meet Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. She will also give a speech at an international business conference.

Several elderly Filipino women who said they were forced into prostitution have been demanding an apology and compensation from the Japanese government.

In December, a Tokyo High Court upheld a lower court's rejection of an $8.4-million compensation claim by 46 Filipino comfort women. *AFP*

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President justifies slow progress of bill

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday justified the slow progress of the money laundering bill in Congress, saying the bill's hasty passage may only scare businessmen from putting their money in banks.

She said it has been suggested that she call a special session to ensure that Congress can pass the bill by the Sept. 30 deadline set by the Financial Action Task Force.

But she has "not decided on that yet," Ms Macapagal said.

The President defended the lawmakers from criticism that they have been holding up the passage of the critical legislation.

The Senate in particular is said to have failed to work on the bill because its time has been taken up by the investigation into the alleged criminal activities of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"But I think they (congressmen and senators) have been acting on several measures. There have already held hearings on the money laundering bill," the President said.

"It's not as if you can come up with a law right away, you can't very well ram it through. They are doing what I requested but they're being very careful," the President said in Filipino at a press briefing yesterday.

"They (the congressmen and senators) are doing something. It's not true that they are not doing anything," she said.

She said that there might be no need for a special session if the international community would see that the government was doing all it could to pass the bill.

The country's economic managers were already "dialoguing with the countries that (are) very much concerned about money laundering," she said.

They are being told of what the government is doing to counter money laundering, the President said. *Donna S. Cueto*

Sanctions start in October, says Paris-based body

PARIS—Russia will escape threatened sanctions over money laundering, but the Philippines will be sanctioned from October, a source close to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Money Laundering said here on Friday.

Ukraine and Grenada were added on Friday to a so-called "black list" of countries and territories not cooperating in the battle against money laundering, bringing the total number targeted to 19, said the source, who asked to remain anonymous.

The Pacific atoll Nauru, accused of laundering money for the Russian mafia, has obtained a delay in threatened sanctions, pending an examination of its proposed anti-laundering legislation, the source said.

Russia, the Philippines and Nauru, however, all remain on the "black list," the source added.

The Paris-based FATF, which is spearheaded by industrialized nations, is an independent international body based at the headquarters of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The body was to present an update of its findings later on Friday, formally identifying non-cooperative countries or territories and detailing proposed counter-measures.

In early August, Russia joined the European Convention on money laundering as part of its efforts to be taken off the FATF blacklist.

The Council of Europe's 1990 convention will come into force in Russia on Dec. 1, foreign ministry officials have said.

Meanwhile, Senate majority leader Loren Legarda said Sunday the legislative body will press for urgent ratification of a United Nations treaty against cross-border crime to help it fight against international money launderers.

Ratification of the UN Convention Against Transnational Crime was needed as an interim measure while Congress debated its own money laundering law, Senator Legarda said.

Legarda said the house would not be able to pass its own bill by end of the month, the deadline set by the FATF.

The task force warned Manila that continued inclusion in the list could trigger a backlash from member countries, including advisories to prospective investors that the Philippines was a money-laundering haven.

The Philippines signed the UN convention last year in Italy, but the Senate must ratify it to make it a binding treaty.

The convention, among other issues, seeks to deny safe haven to money launderers and encourages stronger cooperation among its signatories.

The FATF first published its "black list" of global money laundering centers in June 2000 in Madrid. Problem countries listed also included Israel, Lebanon, and Panama.

The body was also to create an anti-money laundering body in Latin America and planned to take action against money-laundering in online financial services and the new technologies sector. *AFP*

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SUSAN G. BARLISAN, 3514 Block 16, Lot 9, NHA 2, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City
Second Prize P50,000
SYLVIA M. PANGANIBAN, 207 Cañero Subdivision, Deparo, Kaloocan City
GLORELYN VELASCO, c/o Juanito Mendoza Rizal Merchandizing, Rizal St., Aparri, Cagayan
ELENA T. VILLANUEVA, 18 Maligaya St., Rosario 6 Subdivision, Barangay Sta. Lucia, Pasig City #1608
Third Prize P25,000
ELISA U. URGELLES, Quezon Avenue, Sampaloc, Quezon Province, C-4329
MA. VICTORIA M. MAG-USARA, Holy Trinity, Kabacan, Matina, Davao City
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400 Pinoys evacuated in Iran

Iranian, Asian workers clash on refinery site

TEHRAN—Hundreds of Asian workers were evacuated from a refinery under construction in southwest Iran after clashes with Iranian colleagues, diplomats and other sources said.

They included 400 Filipinos, 200 Indians and most of some 450 South Koreans and 200 Thais working on the gas refinery site at Assaluyeh, following the clashes on Monday night, sources said.

Philippines ambassador Ernesto Llamas said the 400 Filipinos had been evacuated to the Gulf island of Kich "for their own safety" after what he called "serious incidents.

"We want to evacuate the 150 who remain, either to Tehran or Kich," he added.

Llamas said clashes broke out between Iranian workers and the Asians, whose camps on the site were "attacked."

Several people were reportedly hurt and security forces intervened, the sources said.

However, the official IRNA news agency, in acknowledging the incidents, later claimed no one had been injured in the clashes.

"The clashes Monday night, which had repercussions for the foreign workers, ended with the intervention of security forces with neither deaths nor injuries," it said.

The news agency also said some of the foreign workers had returned to work.

The cause of the incidents was not clear, though a diplomatic source quoted one worker as saying that an attempt by Iranian workers to rob Indians had escalated into violence.

"We are worried about this business," Llamas said, adding that the Embassy was in contact with South Korean conglomerate Hyundai, which built the camps, and French oil company TotalFinaElf, in charge of developing the South Pars gas field which will serve the refinery.

An Indian diplomat said the 200 Indian workers employed had also been taken to Kich, but he tended to play down the incidents, calling them "disturbances."

"We know the authorities are doing their best to solve this problem, and we don't intend at all to repatriate our workers," he said.

"The situation is now normalized."

Some 9,000 Iranians, including engineers and other technicians as well as manual workers, are employed on the site.

No comment was available either from Hyundai or TotalFinaElf Thursday.

Assaluyeh is a key link in Iran's plans to develop its huge gas reserves, which are estimated at 24,000 billion cubic meters, second only to Russia's. South Pars, the largest field, contains some 35 percent of the total.

The Assuluyeh site resembles a small town in the desert, with its own airport and shops. The workers are housed in separate camps.

TotalFinaElf signed a $2-billion development contract in 1997. *AFP*

Texters ask: Has reduction scheme started?

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

ARE Globe and Smart already implementing their hotly disputed text-reduction scheme?

This question has been bugging many texters in the face of the "mysterious disappearance" of their free text credits.

TXTPower, the consumer group opposing what it calls the telecom monopolies, yesterday said it would ask the Quezon City Regional Trial Court to cite for contempt the officers of telecom firms Globe, Smart, Islacom and Piltel.

Last week, Judge Modesto Juanson of the QC-RTC Branch 216 issued a temporary restraining order against the telecom firms after groups of texters, including TXTPower, sought a preliminary injunction on the proposed reduction scheme.

The TRO stopped the telecom firms from implementing their plan to slash monthly allocations of free text messages within the next 20 days.

Globe and Smart earlier said they would impose the reduction scheme by Sept. 1. The court issued the order on Aug. 30.

But Anthony Ian Cruz, spokesperson of TXTPower, said his group had received several complaints of "disappearing" text credits the day after the court issued the TRO.

"Subscribers are noticing free text credits doing a 'disappearing act' even without being used up. We've gotten similar complaints from all over," Cruz told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Even this reporter had a similar experience after loading a P500 Smart Buddy card yesterday. An inquiry on the balance of free text shortly after making the load showed that instead of the usual 250 free text, it only contained 200.

"We hope some government agency would take the cudgels for subscribers since the National Telecommunications Commission has rendered itself spineless by unilaterally declaring text messaging as a deregulated service," said Cruz, calling for an investigation into the issue.

DOJ files 3 new raps vs Urban bank execs

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has filed three new criminal cases against five Urban Bank officials for violation of the country's laws on lending.

Those charged were Teodoro Borlongan, former Urban Bank president and CEO, senior vice president Nida Santos, vice president Cecilia Magugat, senior manager Milagros Santiago and manager Chulla Formanes.

They were charged with violating the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' rules on "single borrower's limit" and "real estate exposure limit" when they "unlawfully" and "feloniously" purchased "trash" receivables from Urbancorp Investments Inc. on April 19, 2000.

Urban Bank declared a bank holiday last year when it ran out of money after buying almost P5-billion worth of loan papers from Urbancorp Investments, to which Borlongan was also connected.

Records showed that the bank had bought P136.1-million worth of debts that AIC Realty and Holdings Corp. owed Urbancorp Investments.

With AIC Realty already indebted to Urban Bank to the tune of P485.8 million, the loan transfer brought the realty firm's total debt to the bank to P621.9 million, or three percent over the single borrower's limit set by the Bangko Sentral.

The single borrower's limit sets the maximum amount that a bank may lend to a single borrower, and is set at 25 percent of a lender's unimpaired capital.

Kim Wong leaves for Hong Kong

CONTROVERSIAL businessman Kim Wong has again left the country.

Wong, also known as Wong Kamsin, left for Hong Kong at about 2:10 p.m. yesterday aboard Philippine Airlines flight PR 306, immigration officials said.

Airport authorities did not attempt to stop Wong from leaving as he was not on any immigration watch list or hold departure order list.

Wong first left for Hong Kong on Aug. 14 amid allegations that he was the Manila-based leader of the notorious Hong Kong triads and that he was the drug financier of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

He returned on Aug. 22 to Manila where he appeared before the Senate inquiry into Lacson's alleged involvement in organized crime and denied the allegations against him. *TJ Burgonio*

Abusive cabby? Lost luggage? Just Texnaia

By TJ Burgonio

LOST your luggage at the airport? Is a cab driver giving you a hard time? Text 0917-8396242 or its alpha equivalent, Texnaia, and get instant action on your complaint.

Taking their cue from President Macapagal-Arroyo, airport authorities and Globe Telecom officials launched yesterday a text messaging system at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to receive as well as reply to such complaints.

"At the Naia, it is difficult to get through to our landline, so we thought of this Texnaia project," said airport general manager Edgardo Manda.

"We find it a very good tool for instant communication with our passengers," he added.

Aside from complaints, Manda said the system would also answer inquiries about services at the Naia and the Manila Domestic Airport, as well as give out flight schedules and take in suggestions.

Shortly after its launching, the system, which was set up at a command center at Naia Terminal 1, was deluged with messages, including one from Ms Macapagal herself.

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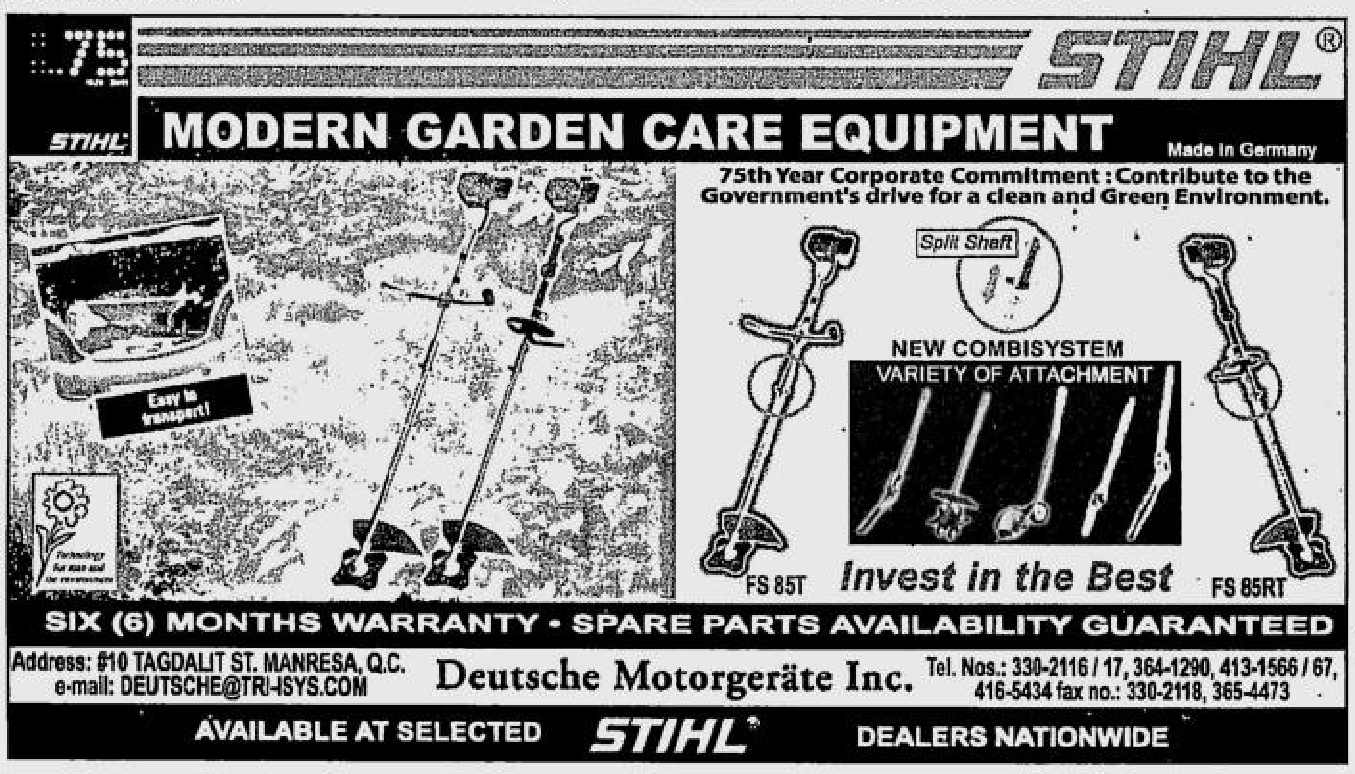

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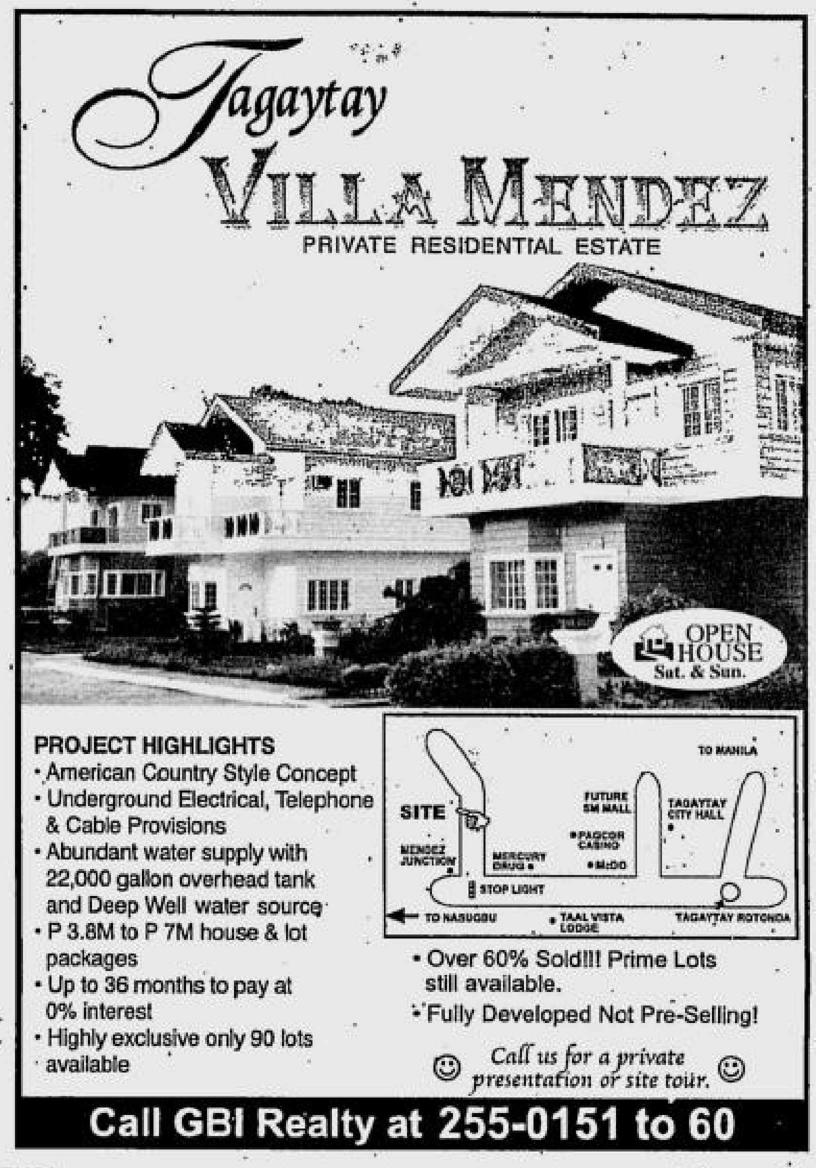

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PICHAY

‘Gang of 5’ hits back at foes

By Rocky Nazareno

IT'S an ugly word war that is bound to get even nastier.

The so-called "Gang of Five" at the House of Representatives allegedly involved in extortion activities went on the offensive yesterday, identifying House Majority Leader Rep. Neptali Gonzales II and his senior deputy, Francis Joseph Escudero, as the source of the extortion reports implicating them.

The five congressmen—Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras, Leyte Rep. Eduardo Veloso, Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico and Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo—were alleged to have asked P2 million each from the Smart and Globe telecom firms while the House committee on transportation and communications was investigating the two companies' bid to reduce free text messages. The committee is chaired by Paras.

Pichay said Gonzales and Escudero were "behind this mischief, malicious imputations and unfounded charges."

Paras said there was no Gang of Five and dismissed the allegations as nothing more than a turf war, involving the chairmen of the House committees and Gonzales, who chairs the committee on rules.

"Gonzales wants everything to pass through him and we objected because it will delay the proceedings and give him too much power," he said.

As this developed, the group TXTPower yesterday asked the House leaderhsip to investigate not just the five congressmen but also Smart and Globe for allegedly conniving with one another in "rendering useless and inutile any congressional initiative favoring consumers."

"If the reports are true, then we have a Gang of Seven who are preying on consumers. Congress should investigate these five dirty solons and two oligopolists in the telecom industry who reportedly connived in exchange for a paltry P10 million," said TXTPower spokesperson Anthony Ian Cruz in a press statement.

But Cruz declined to name names "since we don't know what exactly happened.

"But we of course noticed that nothing concrete came out of the hearing, with the two firms using the House premises to announce their plans to implement the cuts on free text on an installment basis," said Cruz.

Cruz also assailed the attempt of several congressmen to stop the group's national boycott of Smart and Globe last Saturday, saying they "practically sided with the supposed subjects of the House investigation."

Pichay filed House Resolution 179 asking the committee on ethics to "determine what appropriate disciplinary actions or sanctions should be taken against Gonzales and Escudero who may be found (guilty) of disorderly behavior and for other purposes."

"These news reports appear to be a smear campaign or demolition job launched by Escudero and Gonzales against their own colleagues in the House," said Pichay.

An enraged Pichay has called Gonzales and Escudero "liars and rumormongers" in radio interviews.

In a letter to Speaker Jose de Venecia, Pichay said he was considering filing libel charges against the "People's Journal" tabloid which broke the story on the "Gang of Five" early this week.

The report alleged that the group's demand for money from the telecom firms was only the latest in a string of extortion activities that have prompted businessmen and some public officials to cry "shakedown" against the five solons.

Pichay, himself a publisher of several tabloids, accused the Journal of "irresponsible journalism."

Veloso yesterday issued a press statement calling the news reports "malicious and unsubstantiated."

The Leyte solon said he had "no power in the committee beyond my single vote."

"I have long been against the reduction of free text credits and my statements on the matter recorded in hearings and in media would bear this out," he said. "What proof is there to the contrary?" *With a report from Ma. Diosa Labiste and Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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INVENTORY SALE

More men sent to dig deeper Pinatubo canal

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BOTOLAN, Zambales—Government volcanologists and engineers, aided by 25 soldiers and policemen, began to dig some more around Mt. Pinatubo's crater-lake yesterday to lower the mouth of the canal dug earlier by one more meter.

This after the breaching of the canal last Thursday failed to release an estimated 24 million cubic meters of water, or about 25 percent of the lake's 200 million cubic meters of stored water.

"We want to hasten the flow of water," said geologist Ernesto Corpuz, head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology's monitoring and eruption prediction group.

The government resorted to trenching to ease the pressure on the crater's wall, whose collapse could send millions of tons of water and lahar crashing onto thousands of residents at the foot of the volcano.

The water has accumulated since the volcano's last eruption 10 years ago.

As of 11 a.m. Friday, the two-meter wide, four-meter deep and 75-meter long trench on the volcano's Maraunot notch was drawing out 0.11 cubic meters of water per second, a sluggish flow, according to Corpuz.

The canal, built on borrowed funds, did not live up to expectations because a tall slope and huge boulders in the canal's path blocked the water that should have gushed down to the Maraunot River.

Speaking on two-way radio from the notch, Corpuz said the new diggings could be completed by today.

Attempts to airlift 30 more soldiers to the notch to help in the diggings were aborted on Thursday and Friday because of thick clouds and rains over the 1,400-meter volcano.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, during an aerial inspection of the Pinatubo area on Friday, canceled a plan to land near the crater to meet with Phivolcs geologists.

She proceeded instead to the Loob-Bunga resettlement site to distribute food packs to some 300 evacuees. Some evacuees, however, did not take comfort in the fact that the President stayed less than 30 minutes.

At five meters deep, the canal is expected to work up a gradual but steady release of water toward the Maraunot and Bucao rivers that drain to the South China Sea, Corpuz said.

Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan, Phivolcs chief, said the threat of flashfloods and lahar flows brought about by the water release are now "out of the question."

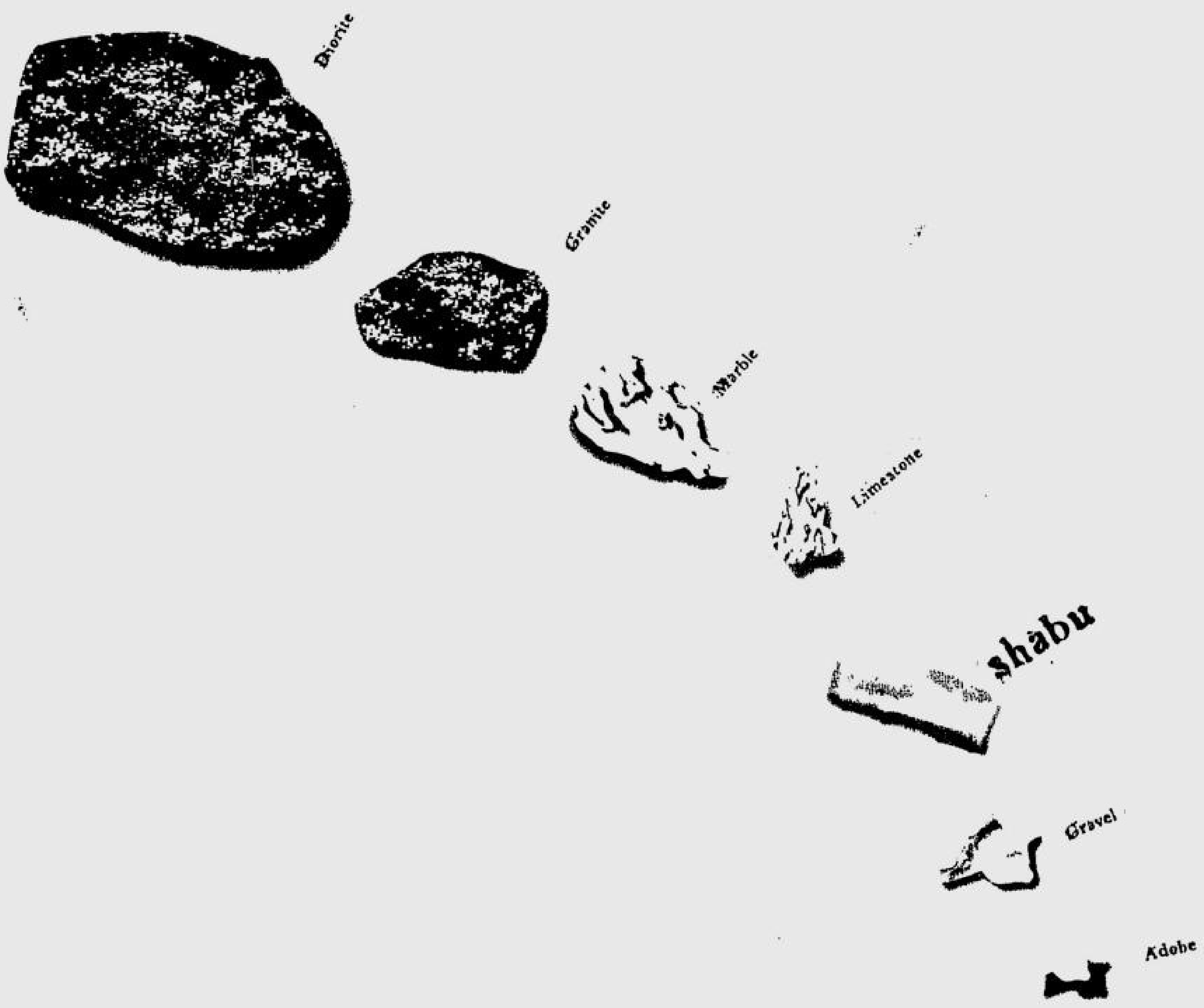
"It was established by the diggings that the rock formations were not as soft as thought," he said.

Still, Corpuz advised the 96 Aetas from Botolan and Tarlac who originally worked on the canal to leave the notch for their safety.

Many of the tribesmen became ill in the last two weeks after they dug the canal in bad weather, he said.

The Aetas arrived here on Thursday minus the heroes' welcome that the municipal government had planned for them.

Conflicting statements by local officials on the safety of returning to their villages caused confusion among the evacuees, members of nongovernment organizations told the INQUIRER. *With a report from Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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KATOTOHANAN

Malacañang offering ambassadorship to Misuari, says JDV

By Volt Contreras

AMBASSADOR Nur Misuari?

Malacañang has reportedly offered ARMM Governor Nur Misuari an ambassadorship to help preserve the 1996 peace accord between the government and the once rebellious group he led—the Moro National Liberation Front.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said he has been authorized by President Macapagal-Arroyo to offer the ambassadorship to a Central European country to Misuari, who will be based near enough to the Middle East so he could also serve as envoy to the Organization of Islamic Conference.

De Venecia has been meeting with Misuari in Bangkok, where the latter reportedly complained that some government officials were trying to ease him out of government dealings with the MNLF.

Misuari could accept the diplomatic posting or the chairmanship of an expanded Southern Philippines Development Authority, De Venecia said.

Misuari could take up either post while retaining the governorship of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), an aide to De Venecia added.

In a press statement, De Venecia said the offer was made to "persuade Misuari to keep the MNLF commitment" to the peace agreement, "save (it) from collapse and defuse a volatile situation in the South."

At the Bangkok meetings, the former rebel leader was said to have complained that some government officials were using an "anti-Misuari bloc to pursue a policy of creating an MNLF without Misuari."

For the government to adopt such a policy would be a "betrayal" of the peace pact, Misuari said.

The government officials, who were not identified, should "rectify this blunder if the government considers us (MNLF) partners in peace," Misuari said.

De Venecia maintained that Malacañang had no hand in "the current infighting in the MNLF" and that Misuari was "not being sidelined by the Macapagal administration."

2 Moro rebel groups to form one organization

THE PHILIPPINES' two largest Muslim rebel groups, which have fought separately for self-rule, will merge to help achieve lasting peace in the troubled South, a former rebel leader said yesterday.

In August, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front reached a "unity agreement" ending more than two decades of rivalry in a move they say will boost their autonomy campaign.

"This is unity for stability, unity for sustained development and unity for lasting peace," MNLF leader Parouk Hussin told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines.

"For the time being, we will maintain two structures, but eventually we will form one single body to represent us in all international fora, including the Islamic Conference Organization," Hussin said.

He said the move was in response to the "collective desire of the membership of the OIC for us to have a common position for justice, for progress and for development, and this is exactly what we are doing now."

The MNLF, once the largest Muslim separatist group, signed a peace agreement with the Philippine government in 1996, accepting autonomy and dropping its bid for independence.

The peace talks were brokered by the Islamic Conference, which represents more than 50 Muslim states.

MNLF chairman Nur Misuari later was elected governor of a Muslim autonomous region in Mindanao.

The MILF, led by former MNLF vice chair Salamat Hashim, broke away from the MNLF in 1978. It surfaced as a new faction a few years later following a leadership dispute with Misuari but continued to wage a separate war against the national government.

The MILF reopened peace talks with the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo in June after pulling out of negotiations last year under then President Joseph Estrada.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu has said the MILF-MNLF unity talks were pushed by Malaysia, Libya and Indonesia, the three Muslim nations that have helped the Philippine government deal with Islamic separatists over the years.

Jakarta brokered talks between Manila and the MNLF. Libya hosted the reopened talks with the MILF, and Malaysia hosted the last round of negotiations last month.

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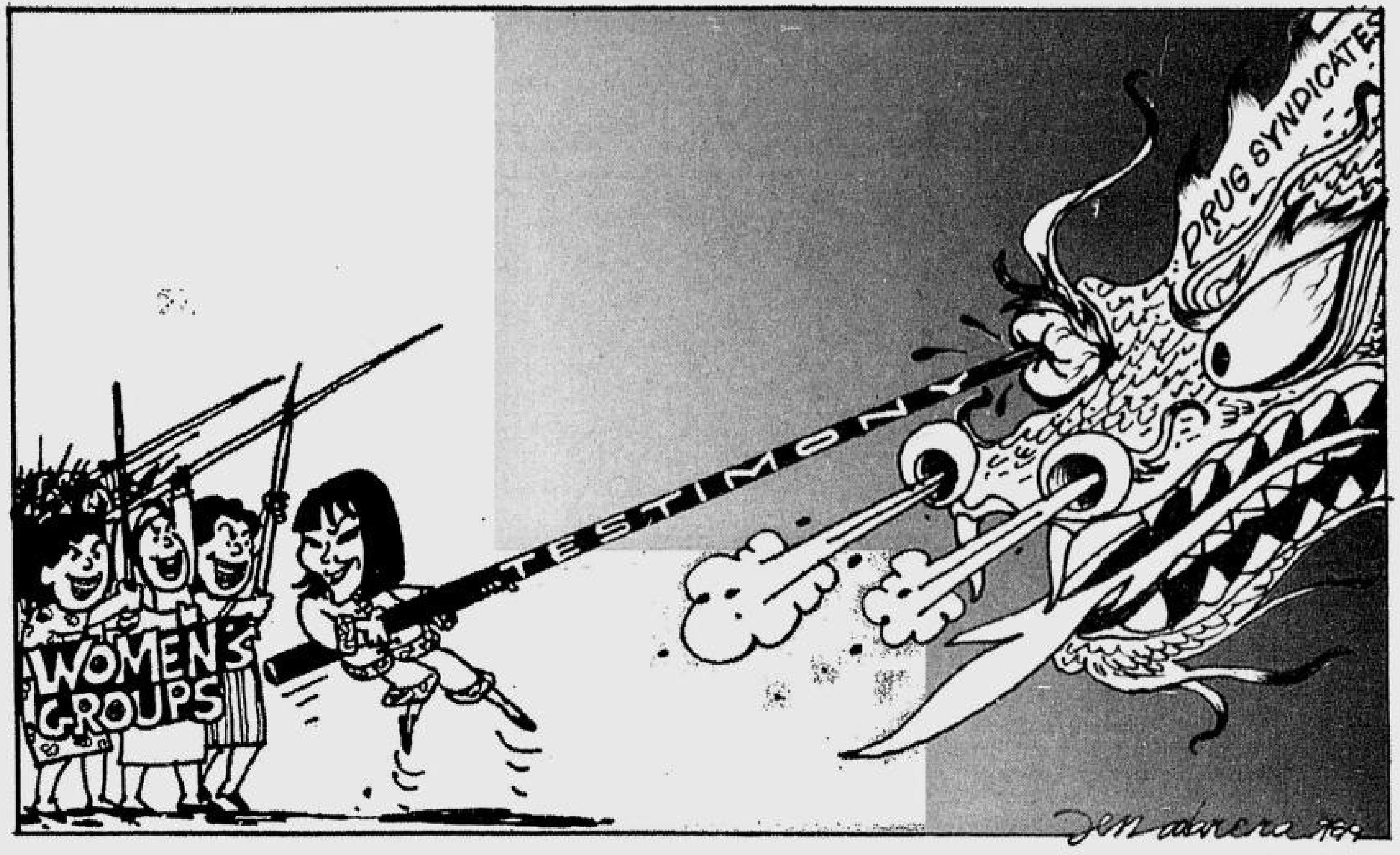


EDITORIALS

Striking parallels

THERE are striking parallels in the career paths of Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Vladimir Montesinos, the chief spy of ousted Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori.

A Peruvian congressional committee is investigating the origins of at least $260 million found in foreign bank accounts linked to Montesinos. He faces several charges, including extortion, drug trafficking and homicide for allegedly directing a paramilitary death squad.

Allegations of money laundering, drug trafficking and involvement in kidnapping for ransom, and extra-judicial executives have similarly been made against Lacson. These allegations are the subject of the Senate inquiry.

More chilling is the allegation that Montesinos put together during the administration of his boss, Fujimori, dossiers on every politically significant citizen in Peru, including Fujimori. Montesinos was caught on videotape last September apparently trying to bribe a congressman, sparking a scandal that forced Fujimori to flee to Japan, his country of birth. Montesinos fled Peru last October and sought sanctuary in Venezuela. Last June, Venezuelan authorities deported Montesinos to Peru, where he now faces charges of stealing state funds, taking kickbacks from illegal drugs and arms deals, directing death squads, and ordering the torture of opponents.

Montesinos is testifying at the hearings of the Peruvian Congress, which is not only tracking public funds allegedly embezzled by Montesinos but also extracting from him information about the operations of army death squads. A congressional committee has accused Fujimori of responsibility for the killings of 25 people in two army death-squad operations in the early 1990s. The investigation lays the basis for a request to Japan to extradite Fujimori to Peru where he can be put on trial on charges of homicide. Montesinos has offered to testify on the activities of Fujimori.

Montesinos is a man who knows many secrets, and Lacson, as former chief of the PNP under deposed President Estrada, also appears to know many secrets.

The Philippine National Police recently seized electronic surveillance equipment from the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF). It has filed charges with the Office of the Ombudsman against Lacson and several former PAOCTF agents for alleged illegal wiretapping using the seized equipment. The PNP says Lacson and his men monitored, using the equipment, telephone calls of political opponents of the former president during the impeachment trial.

Lacson faces numerous charges in the Senate, but the Senate inquiry has focused more on the testimony of such witnesses as Mary "Rosebud" Ong on alleged drug trafficking. At this point, however, the wire-tapping case looks more promising if the government's intention is to pin down Lacson. At least, the Office of the Ombudsman is taking the wire-tapping charges seriously as a step toward filing of formal criminal charges.

Hard evidence

THERE is a growing demand for Lacson to resign or take a leave from the Senate, but for such a demand to prosper, the allegations on money laundering and drug trafficking require harder evidence than what has been introduced so far.

Most of the evidence in the hearings consists of testimony of witnesses, especially on the drug-trafficking allegations. Unfortunately, drug trafficking does not leave a paper trail, unlike bank transactions, and so much of the evidence depends on the credibility of witnesses.

But in the wire-tapping complaint hard evidence is in the hands of the authorities. The tapes contain potentially explosive information. As such they are better handled in the judicial system than in the parliamentary hearing.

According to police officers, there was a falling out between Lacson and the former president because the wire-tapping did not spare even Estrada's son, former Mayor Jinggoy Estrada. But that's what official spies are for: they collect derogatory information even on their political patrons.

Fears or threats?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

A GROUP of retired generals has warned that the charges being aired against the military in the current congressional hearings might disturb some of its officers and lead to a possible coup d'état. The other day, Gen. Edilberto Adan, the spokesperson of the Armed Forces, expressed a similar apprehension although he did not go so far as to fear a coup but only "disturbances."

The message, as I read it, is that we should be careful not to antagonize the military lest we provoke it to take drastic steps to protect its prestige and prerogatives. In other words, we should not unduly offend it with indiscriminate criticisms that might result in the destabilization of the Armed Forces and the disruption of constitutional processes.

I've never heard a more preposterous conceit. The veiled threats of the military are like the tantrums of a spoiled prima donna. I do not see the civilian government quaking in its boots for fear of a military take-over that will put an end to our democratic institutions.

The military has never gotten over its swelled head since it was lionized by Marcos to bribe it into supporting his dictatorship. The importance of the generals was affirmed by Edsa I, which admittedly could not have succeeded without their active participation. The Armed Forces played a similar albeit less decisive role in Edsa II that saw the downfall of another reprobate president.

But it was not so much the conscience of the military as the outrage of the people that ultimately tolled the bell for Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada. That anger was more powerful than guns and tanks. The military was merely flowing with the irresistible tide—or playing politics, if you will—when it deserted the despots and joined the enraged masses.

We are all grateful to the Armed Forces for contributing to the success of Edsa I and Edsa II. But they cannot claim, for having participated in these historic events, to be the Savior of the Nation.

Their questionable performance against the Abu Sayyaf does not speak well of their efficiency and—if the charges against them are to be believed—even their integrity. The failed siege of Lamitan is something that will mortify the Armed Forces for years to come. One shudders to think of what might happen if we were fighting a real enemy in war and not only a motley band of bandits.

There was a similar incident a decade or so ago, when the military cornered the notorious Rizal Alih, who escaped just the same and is presumably still at large. All that the soldiers succeeded in doing was demolish the entire building—at great expense in shellfire and to their own image—here the fugitive had sought refuge.

The sorry siege at Lamitan is further flawed by the report, true or not, of a collusion between the outlaws and the authorities that made it possible for the bandits to elude the military dragnet. Even Reghis Romero's insistence that he escaped from the Abu Sayyaf has received little credulity. The persistent report is that he paid a heavy ransom to his release, with some government officials brokering the transaction.

In any case, I do not see why we should walk on teacups when discussing and, if necessary, criticizing the Armed Forces. It is not as if they have achieved sacrosanct status or immunity like some revered institution or dread personality. Their record, such as it is, is far from immaculate.

A number of their high officers, not to mention the rank and file, have at one time or another been found guilty of offenses that have blemished their code of honor. In fact, some retired generals are still facing investigation for serious irregularities, including embezzlement of fiduciary funds.

Government functionaries, high and low, are being castigated daily for their public and private conduct. The most frequent subject is no less than the President of the Philippines, who has wisely taken every criticism in stride as an occupational hazard. She has not been heard to protest; much less has she brandished dire consequences, as the military is doing, if the attacks against her are not stopped.

The members of Congress, especially the Senate at this time, have been receiving their share of potshots because of their handling of the current legislative investigations, besides their other questionable activities. Sen. Panfilo Lacson is bearing the brunt of such attacks. Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, who deserves the award of being the Most Sensitive Solon, simply churns out letters to the editor in his defense.

For men who are supposed to be of rugged strength and unflappable nerves, the warnings of destabilization made by the officers of the Armed Forces above cited are not in character. They should not be overly offended and not overly worried either. The other possibility is that they are trying to *intimidate* the people from criticizing them, which would of course be the greater evil.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines, including the Philippine National Police, have their proper roles in the maintenance of peace and order throughout the land. More than any other government entity, it is they who should becalm the populace that the protection of their lives and property is in the good hands of the military. Our soldiers and the police should be the last to raise alarums of the disorders they themselves are supposed to prevent.

The officers and men of the military establishment should not and cannot prevent the airing of charges against them with fears or threats of turbulence if the public is not silenced. That is not the way things are done in a democracy. The accusations against them are now being investigated, and they will have every chance to defend themselves at a free and open hearing. Not under the sword or through the barrel of a gun.

The new chief of the WTO

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

Bonn—Supatchai Panitchpakdi is the director general-designate of the World Trade Organization (WTO). As a result of a compromise arrangement, he and Mike Moore, whom he will succeed, are each serving one-half the term of the director general—something like the arrangement that Frank Drilon reportedly made with Rene Cayetano.

Here to address an international conference on "Sustainable Food Security for All by 2020," Supatchai introduced his topic, "Making Globalization Work for Developing Countries: The Role of the WTO," by narrating his "first-hand, once-in-a-lifetime" experience with globalization.

As he told it, he was chairing the UNCTAD X meeting in Thailand, which had a very large number of disgruntled NGOs in attendance. Michel de Camdessus, the IMF head, was scheduled to deliver a speech before the conference, but Supatchai was not sure of what the welcome for Camdessus would be, given the unruly behavior of the demonstrators. On the premise that discretion was the better part of valor, Supatchai gently suggested that Camdessus enter the auditorium from the rear, using the backstage entry instead of the front entrance. A cocksure Camdessus, however, declined the politely worded suggestion, and said that he would march down the center aisle with Supatchai escorting him.

What Supatchai feared would happen, happened. An American demonstrator went up to Camdessus as he entered the auditorium, and pasted him on the face with a cake before he could be stopped.

So what did all this have to do with Supatchai's first-hand experience with globalization? Well, explained Supatchai, you can't get much more global than having a Thai-baked cake thrown by an American hand at a French face.

His humor surfaced again when he was talking about the Asian crisis. He pointed out that the crisis was not unique to Asia: it could happen anywhere in the world, at any time, because it is a systemic feature of a capitalist society.

Giving an undignified (and endearing) snort, he denied that cronyism was the distinguishing feature of the Asian crisis. "A rose," he pointed out, "by any other name...What name?"

What is called cronyism in Asia, he said, also exists elsewhere in the world, except that in the developed countries like the United States, business schools have another name for it: "networking."

Surprisingly (given his prospective position), he is not starry-eyed about globalization. He frankly states that while globalization can bring in tremendous benefits, it is equally swift to punish and impose horrendous costs. He used Asia as an example.

For decades, Asian countries were reaping the benefits of their openness, and were being held up as role models for economic growth by the Bretton Woods institutions. Yet in one fell swoop, as a result of the financial crisis, the prices of real assets in these countries were reduced to at most 20 percent of their former value, and were selling for what Supatchai described as "fire-sale" prices.

He hastened to add that it is highly likely that crises of this sort will occur more often, possibly because of the short life of inventions, due to the proliferation of newer products coming on stream. On top of this, they will also be more severe because of the ease with which capital can cross borders.

His advice: While we can gain from globalization, we must be ever ready for sudden reversals of fortune.

He pointed to the crisis in the information and communications technology industry which has hit Korea, Thailand and Malaysia very badly, resulting in negative growth rates for these countries in the last quarter, and possibly causing the next round of financial collapses.

He readily admitted that although the trade rounds are supposed to enhance competitiveness, market access and consumer welfare, the reality is that "there is a lack of balance" in the benefits, and the negotiations have so far been on unequal terms. Countries were enticed to join the Uruguay Round on the promise of full agricultural liberalization, but they got only one-third of what they expected. Nevertheless, Supatchai pointed out, developing countries did get market access for agriculture (however disappointingly small) and they got a major concession in the phasing out of the multifiber agreement by the developed countries (although we still got shafted: there was supposed to be a 10-year phasing out period for the products, but in the first five to eight years, the barriers were relaxed only on products that were not being produced in the developed countries).

The next head of the WTO reminds developing countries that the organization is member-driven, and that it cannot be turned into a development organization. He also asks that not too much be expected of the organization, which has a staff of 530 (the World Bank has 6,000), and a budget of $78 million a year—about one-half the budget for travel of the World Bank, he says.

But if one thinks that because of this, the WTO is not worth joining, think again. There are 142 members (no one wants out), with 30 other countries waiting in line. It's not easy to get in, either: It has taken China 15 years to "resume" its membership, and before it is really in, it will take another eight years during which it will have to undergo annual reviews from 21 WTO committees.

Joker got Lacson out of a bind

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THERE is a big debate as to whether Sen. Panfilo Lacson ought to resign from the Senate or not, because of all the accusations hurled against him. My own feeling is that he ought to resign. It is true that at this point there appears to be no direct evidence against him from the testimony of Mary Ong and the other witnesses, but under the principle of command responsibility he is accountable for the crimes which his key people in the defunct PAOCTF stand accused of. The commander must always answer for the actions of his people. Lacson, because of the behavior of his people, has become associated with their guilt. Judging from the surveys indicating that the overwhelming majority of the people believe he is guilty, though at this point by association, the senator has lost the moral authority to remain in the Senate. Certainly his leadership has been impaired.

* * *

At the very least Lacson ought to take a leave while the investigation is going on. As other commentators have pointed out, the senator enjoys the advantage of not being under oath while he refutes the charges against him, whereas the witnesses are all under oath. Lacson also terrorizes them by constantly reminding them sternly that their statements are made under oath.

* * *

Sen. Joker Arroyo may have saved Lacson from perjury when he proposed that the hearings on allegations about Lacson's money-laundering activities be postponed until solid evidence is presented. Before Arroyo came up with this idea, ISAFP Chief Col. Victor Corpus had already placed Lacson in a bind, when he challenged the senator to state under oath that he has no bank accounts in the US and elsewhere. Had Lacson refused, people would have jumped to the conclusion that he was hiding something. But if he took the oath and were to be found out later to have owned foreign accounts, he would have committed perjury. But Arroyo ended this exchange between Lacson and Corpus with his proposal, and Lacson must have heaved a sigh of relief. Recall that NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco testified that the US Federal Bureau of Investigation had informed his office that Lacson owns a bank account in the US with a "rather large" deposit.

* * *

Are his men guilty? One of the best evidence of guilt, as lawyers like to point out, is flight, and Lacson's key officials, Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao, lost no time fleeing when things began to get hot. And there are indications that Lacson knew of their escape plan and approved it. On the other hand, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop and Supt. John Campos have not been able to refute the charges hurled against them by Mary Ong. Many people find it hard to believe that Lacson did not know of his men's shenanigans all those years.

* * *

Despite our crowded and hectic schedule in Taiwan, the organizers very kindly made sure that we would be able to visit the famed National Museum in Taipei even if only for two hours. I first visited that museum in 1985 with my children, but it is said that the collection of 6,000 pieces of Chinese pottery and artifacts and other cultural objects from various dynasties. some dating to well before Christ, is so vast that one cannot see it all even after staying in Taipei for several years. It is said that those museum pieces represent the best of China, and that if there was one thing the late Chair Mao Zedong wanted from Taiwan it is this collection. The story of how Generalissimo Chang Kai Shek brought them from Beijing to Nanking as early as 1945, when his government was already threatened by the communists, and how they were secretly shipped to Taiwan aboard a dozen barges, with the help of the US military, is a dramatic story.

Our museum guide said that in addition to the pottery and porcelain, Mao also wanted to recover some 950,000 kilos of gold bullions which Chiang also shipped to Taiwan. The gold, he said, enabled Taiwan to industrialize in later years.

* * *

President Macapagal will make a state visit to Japan starting Sept. 12 up to Sept. 15. During state visits the itinerary of the foreign dignitary is fixed and the visit is judged as successful, among other things, by the smoothness and precision with which events and appointments are observed. This smooth, wrinkle-free schedule does not come by chance. Months before, a whole retinue of people from various departments work hard in the background to ensure it. In Brunei, the President was heard expressing satisfaction over how her visit went. In fact she found it "perfect."

* * *

Among the people who ensured that the Brunei visit went smoothly, aside from Ambassador Enrique Zaldivar and the embassy staff, were our ambassador to Israel, Marcelino Paynor, and our trade attaché in Jakarta, Jorge Juban, who is also accredited to Brunei. Paynor, a PMA graduate who opted for the foreign service after some years, handled this coordination job during President Ramos' term, and now he has been tapped for Ms Macapagal's visits. By the time Ms Macapagal was about to leave for Singapore, Paynor had already left to ensure that all would go well there.

We rode the same plane to Brunei with Paynor and we told him that his extra job only made his already tough assignment as our point man in war-torn Israel even harder. He said some people are now being trained to do this, but for the moment he has to do it. In the next few days, he should be in Tokyo, checking every detail of Ms Macapagal's trip.

* * *

Today is the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a grand fluvial parade will be held on the Pasig River in her honor, featuring 23 miraculous Marian statues from Metro Manila towns and cities. A special feature is the statue of Our Lady of All Nations from Amsterdam. President Macapagal will lead the launching of "Araw ng Papuri sa Kaarawan ni Maria" at noon today, with a short ceremony at the Malacañang portion of Pasig, to send off "Mary's Flotilla" toward Guadalupe. Officials led by Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, MMDA Chair Ben Abalos, Mayor Lito Atienza and Bishop Talamayan will be present.

The colorful barges carrying the Metro Manila mayors, their constituents and favorite Marian images, will sail from Malacañang and pass under the metropolis' major bridges from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Afterwards the barges will dock at the Makati Park, and the images will be brought in a long motorcade the Riverbanks Center in Marikina, where a concelebrated Mass and benediction will be held at 6 p.m. The public is cordially invited.

Just watch the movie

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF the hearing has begun, can the movie be far behind?

Inevitable almost like death and taxes is the movie project that gets underway once someone lands gob smack in the center of controversy. We have yet to know for sure, for instance, whether Mary "Rosebud" Ong is telling the unvarnished truth about her life as a "deep penetration agent." But we already know that a movie on her is in the works.

Among the questions the media put to her after a recent testimony before the Senate was who she thought should portray her in the "true-to-life" movie about her. "Vilma Santos if the film will focus on my work as a Narcom agent," she said, since in Vilma's real-life role as Lipa mayor she has shown her commitment to fighting the drug menace. But if the planned movie will concentrate on her love affair with former handler John Campos, then perhaps the sensuous Rosanna Roces can be the filmic Rosebud.

Inday Badiday in her radio show is even now running a poll among her listeners on the actress they deem best fit to portray Rosebud. Apart from Vilma and Osang, as well as Kris Aquino who made her entry into show biz through "true crime" movies, I was jolted to hear a caller cast her vote for—Ai Ai delas Alas! Others have even suggested such non-show-biz figures as former Sen. Nikki Coseteng and Sen. Loren Legarda.

Strangely enough, no one has thought of giving Mary Ong herself a shot at stardom by letting her portray herself. After all, if Chief Supt. Rey Acop and Sen. Panfilo Lacson are to be believed, Mary Ong not only looks the part, she is quite an accomplished actress herself.

* * *

MEETING with Jaime Cardinal Sin the other night at Villa San Miguel were Fr. Cirilo Nacorda and townsfolk of Lamitan, Basilan who had come to the city to testify before a House committee investigation of the alleged links between military officers and the Abu Sayyaf.

We were at the Villa for a Mass and dinner to observe the 10th death anniversary of Felix Bautista, our journalism professor at the UST who had served the Cardinal faithfully for many years as a "ghost" and publicist. On our way out, someone tipped us about the presence of Father Loi and his parishioners. Jesselynn dela Cruz, editor of the CBCP Monitor, wanted to talk with Father Nacorda, since she had interviewed him extensively about the incident in Lamitan and the activities of the Abu Sayyaf. I tagged along, driven by curiosity.

What struck me most about the group was how "ordinary" looking they were. Even Father Loi, if he did not look so familiar from TV news footage, could be easily overlooked in a crowd. The Lamitan folk looked exactly like what they are: small-town residents whose lives are circumscribed by the boundaries of their remote location and the poverty of their situation.

And yet, from what deep resources have sprung their remarkable courage, and the strength of will to take on both the military and the bandit group? When I put this question to Father Loi, he smiled slightly and shrugged his shoulders. "We all just want to tell the truth," he said.

We are briefly mesmerized by the sensational testimony, and perhaps driven to righteous anger by what we hear. But our lives will move on. Father Loi and the people of Lamitan, however, will have to live with the consequences of their actions. The nation owes them a debt of gratitude, if only for mustering the courage to tell the truth, as they know it.

* * *

"TWELVE years is enough time to fight for a law," declares Nandy Pacheco of the Gunless Society. Since 1989, the Gunless Society has struggled for the passage of a law regulating the licensing and possession of guns, and limiting the carrying of guns in public to police, military and licensed security personnel who are in uniform and on duty.

With every opening of Congress, the Gunless Society has talked to senators and members of Congress to sponsor the bill, already endorsed by over a million signatories and dozens of civic and non-government organizations. The closest the bill has gotten to passage was in the first Congress, after the Aquino administration certified it as an urgent measure. Ironically, though it was passed by the Senate, it was the House committee chaired by President Aquino's own brother, Rep. Peping Cojuangco, which sat on the bill and doomed its chances of passage.

* * *

PACHECO, persevering in what seems to be at times a "one-man" crusade, finally threw up his hands when a representative asked him recently: "So, what has happened to your bill?" "He's the legislator, he should know what to do about it if he really believed in gun regulation," says Pacheco. The draft bill is archived in the Senate and the House, and any concerned legislator who truly believes in the need to regulate the proliferation of firearms in this country can refile it and work for its passage.

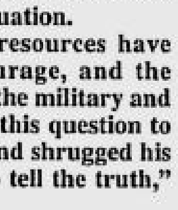
Meanwhile, Pacheco and the Gunless Society are focusing on another battlefield: that of public opinion. A public opinion survey has already shown considerable public support for a gun regulation law. What Pacheco wants to do now is to deepen that support, to provide values education to schools, parishes and communities to counter the materialism and fascination with violence that drives the gun market.

The Gunless Society nonetheless thanks everyone who supported its efforts for over a decade. Specifically, former President Cory Aquino and the legislators who worked for and staked their political futures on the passage of the law: then Representatives Bonifacio Gillego and Bobby Tañada and Senators Alberto Romulo, Frank Drilon, Aquilino Pimentel and Jun Magsaysay. Thanks as well to civil society groups, schools and parish communities.

A system of fortifications

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



IF you haven't got a copy of Fr. Rene Javellana's "Fortress of Empire" (1997) or haven't read the book, drop by a major library to school yourself in one of the most intriguing subjects of our architectural history. Photographs by Lori Tan evoke the romance of loneliness and a time long past that has little to do with reality but is a visual pleasure anyway.

Most of us are familiar with Fort Santiago in Manila, Fort San Pedro in Cebu and Fort Del Pilar in Zamboanga, but there were dozens of others built along lonely coastlines from north to south of the archipelago. But why should you bother with crumbling heaps of stones that do not affect your life? Well, partly because these form part of your heritage, like it or not. The practical side is that, restored and preserved, they could form tourist attractions and also be submitted to Unesco as part of World Heritage so that the Philippines could be known for things other than money laundering, drugs, child prostitution and eight million overseas workers fleeing poverty.

I have selected the following from Vicente Barrantes' list (1878), which includes a description of the fort and some information about the place where it was located rather than Father Javellana's because the latter is too comprehensive and deserves more space. I would also like to thank Father Javellana for his help with the technical terms in the article.

Santisimo Nombre de Jesus was the *cabecera* of Cebu that was also an episcopal seat. Its *alcalde mayor* served not only as governor but also as chief justice, general of the Armada of the Pintados and chatelaine of the fort, with power to appoint ordinary mayors, justices, scribes, property managers and bailiffs. If Cebuanos were unable to harvest rice due to the aridness of the soil, they augmented what they had with millet, which they called *borona*. Those with means exchanged cotton, tobacco or other products in adjacent isles. They produced salt, a lot of *lampote* (a kind of cotton fabric), *medriñaques* (calico-like cloth made from *abaca*), cotton stockings and other textiles. Other products included wax, civet, *abaca*, garlic and onions. Gold and pearls were found in Talibong on the coast of Bohol, which was under the jurisdiction of Cebu.

In the vicinity of Cebu was the Fort of San Pedro, constructed of lime and stones (*cal y canto*) and located on the edge of the sea. Triangular in shape with three bulwarks of erect flanks, it was guarded on the entrance by an exterior stockade and a palisade in the form of a false front (*falsa braga*). Within were 13 bronze cannons, long hand guns of iron, muskets, nautical whipstaffs, 250 arquebuses, 1826 bullets for the artillery, 14,055 lead ammunition for the muskets and so on.

Under the jurisdiction of the bishopric of Cebu was the island of Panay, which was called the Sicily of the Philippines because of its beauty, triangular shape and abundant produce. It was divided into Capiz and Oton, the latter serving as the capital and the site of the Fortress of San Pedro. In front of the fort a short distance away was the island of Guimaras (Himalos) which though small had plenty of livestock, fruit, pastures and spring waters. Of equal fertility was the whole of Panay because of the many rivers that fertilized the soil. Rice harvests were plentiful as well as timber, oil, wax, *abaca*, tar, cotton and various textiles.

Panay had a fort in Oton of masonry with a platform partly on land and partly in the water. It was quadrilateral in shape and had four bulwarks, one with an erect flank and three protruding orillons. Its entrance was on the northern part and it was defended by a square palisade with another door on the eastern side. On the outside in front of the northern curtain extended a repaired edifice of masonry facing the sea and following the contour of the cove and ending on a bridge on the opposite bank. The fort served as a defense against the Mindanaons and Joloanos who passed through the area on their raiding ventures.

In Capiz the fort formed an isosceles triangle attached to the side of the church. The remaining sides were flanked by a *terron* located on the western angle of the fort.

The parish priest and the inhabitants of Romblon built their own fort of lime and stone. It consisted simply of an upright strip with a platform facing the sea. The strip faced the west and was flanked by two semi-bulwarks situated on its extremes and a square in its middle that protected and covered the entrance. In the olden days, the site was the hideout of Moros from where they would sail to raid the entire region, but the fort stopped the depredations.

The Calamianes consisted of three islands. Busuanga was the grand Calamian and its capital was Taytay. There were innumerable islands, mostly unpopulated but some inhabited by Camucones and other "infidels" related to Borneans who together with the inhabitants of Paragua, Mindanao and Jolo continued to harass the Christianized islanders.

The products were wax, gold, rice and vegetables. There were pigs, extraordinary birds, including turkey, and in its dense forests was found the wild boar.

Fuerza de Sta. Isabel was found in the northern part of the great island of La Paragua in the most interior area of the cove. It was a hill of stone elevated some 20 feet, with a flat crown over a sandbank that during high tide was isolated. Its form was an irregular square. It consisted of a curtain of stone and lime with two collateral bulwarks. In the middle was the door. The road that led to the town was 650 feet long and at its end was a high mountain that dominated the terrain. The Moros in 1734 placed some artillery atop the mountain and caused much damage to the town.

Another world

*"WE are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the foundation of life. Many of the things we need can wait. The children cannot. Right now is the time their bones are being formed, their blood is being made and their senses are being developed. To him we cannot answer 'Tomorrow.' Their name is 'Today.'"—**Gabriela Mistral, Chilean Nobel Prize-winning poet***

YOUNGBLOOD

Rachel Kelly Davis

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

We go about our everyday lives hurrying from one place to another. Everyone's always going somewhere or getting there or leaving. But as we ride in our cars to go to school or drive ourselves to work, do we ever look out to see the world we don't know?

For a day, I was given a chance to look into a world that was not my own and find beauty and hope there. I looked into the world of a child out on the streets.

Statistics tell us that there are approximately 1.5 million Filipino children living on the streets.

What do they do? Try to live, as we all do every day. But their way of life is so different from ours that we couldn't even imagine it.

Poverty and the lack of education cause most street children to be where they are today. These are children, who rummage through our trash to get their food and spend whatever money they manage to get from begging rugby to dull their hunger. These children are exploited by criminal syndicates and sometimes by their own parents. They must endure the cruelties of the streets. They sell *sampaguita*, and sometimes they sell themselves.

I look at them and it makes me more conscious of the inequalities in the world and the things we take for granted. With our nice schools, the luxuries we enjoy, our protection and care, we are so far from the violence of the real world that we forget that there are other people out there, that there is another world besides our own. When we're so comfortable with our little worlds, we fail to notice what's out there.

We see street children every day as we go about our busy lives, but we never do anything. We feel sorry for them and sometimes give them money, and then we think we've done enough. But have we really?

Sometimes we go as far as spending a day with street children or visiting an orphanage. We give donations and little things we don't need. We give away our extras and walk out feeling righteous. Sometimes subconsciously we do what we're convinced is a good deed so we can carry a feeling of self worth, the feeling that we have done something the "unfortunate" should thank us for. We exploit these people, such as the street children, so that we can salve our conscience or satisfy our ego.

Without realizing it, we put ourselves above them, and it never occurs to us that this is arrogance.

Looking at them doesn't help. We need to attack the roots of the problem: poverty and lack of education. How else to solve poverty but to work? And how else does one prepare to land a decent job except through education? Education is the key.

Some private schools help educate street children and poor kids for free. Some hold night classes while others put them right in there with the rich kids. This is definitely a good start. More, if not all, private schools should follow this example.

We who are students of private schools have something to contribute. Can you imagine if we all took time out maybe once a week to teach in a public school or in a home for street children? It would be more productive than merely spending an occasional day with them or donating our discarded stuff once in a while. By helping in their education, we leave them with something more than material things. We leave then with some knowledge that might help them achieve a better life.

There's that famous line that says, *"The children are the hope of the future."* Why not give them something to build the future on?

Some people reading this will probably roll their eyes. Others will perhaps wish they could help, but will never do so. And there will those who read this and take action. I pray that there will be many who will take the time to do something.

I too am still considered by society to be a child. But as a 15-year-old, there is much I can do. I can teach. The little that I know may help. To give up my Saturday mornings for what could possibly be a better future for our society is nothing. It isn't worth much and yet it might be worth more than any material donation or the annual school visit.

I looked into the world of street children and found a strange sort of beauty in their struggle. I found hope in the eyes where I was sure I would find none. I am hopeful, and what keeps me hoping is knowing the one thing that really connects us to the poor: had the tables been turned, they could have just as easily been us.

Rachel Kelly Davis, 15, is a high school junior at the Assumption College in Makati. She wrote this piece as an assignment in Social Studies.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO. . .?

'Kokoy' graft case

BENJAMIN "Kokoy" Romualdez surrendered to Sandiganbayan sheriff Edgardo Urieta upon his return to the country on April 27, 2000, after being away for 14 years. He was facing several charges filed with the graft court.

One of the cases was a graft charge filed by the Presidential Commission on Good Government on Feb. 22, 1989 for allegedly holding dual positions from 1976 to 1986. According to the PCGG, while Romualdez was the provincial governor of Leyte, he "had himself appointed and/or assigned as Philippine ambassador…" to Peking then Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and then Washington, D.C. The case was assigned to the Third Division.

The court ordered the case archived on July 25, 1989 because the warrant for his arrest could not be served. The case was revived when he came back and he posted a P15,000-bail on the day he surrendered. He was thus released and his arraignment was set for May 25, 2000.

Romualdez moved to postpone the arraignment but it was denied on May 17, 2000. On May 20, he asked the court to order a "proper preliminary investigation" and, again, to postpone the arraignment. Three days later, the court approved his petition.

Romualdez filed a motion to quash on May 30, 2000, in effect withdrawing his earlier motion for preliminary investigation. He argued that the crime was not an ill-gotten-wealth case, and therefor the PCGG has no authority to investigate and prosecute the case. Moreover, it did not specify the provision in the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act which was allegedly violated.

Case status: The graft court granted Romualdez's motion to quash in a resolution dated May 9, 2001 and promulgated on May 15. The Third Division said that the case filed did not involve ill-gotten wealth, and thus the conduct of the preliminary investigation and the filing of the criminal information were outside the authority of the PCGG.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

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PPI

Doubts about court administrator must be cleared

I HAVE nothing against Justice Presbiterio Velasco Jr. who was appointed recently as court administrator. More so because, according to news reports, he was appointed upon the recommendation of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and got a convincing majority of the votes of the members of the Supreme Court.

Velasco was my co-lawyer during the time of the late Dr. Rebecco Panlilio in the Puerto Azul Group of Companies. He is also one of our members in the Rotary Club of Manila.

But I think some things have to be set straight. Velasco's reported "acquaintance" with an alleged drug lord being investigated by the Senate is a very serious matter that cannot be ignored by the judiciary. The office of the court administrator wields power and influence over all judges and personnel of the lower courts. It can even recommend the suspension and removal of judges throughout the country. What will happen if the Senate investigation results in the prosecution of Kim Wong as a drug lord and he is recommended for prosecution for other criminal offenses?

To our mind, the Supreme Court should look into Velasco's relationship with a suspected drug lord, with whom he has played tennis. It should do so before Velasco assumes office on Sept. 11, 2001.

We pray that the Chief Justice and other members of the Supreme Court will hold in abeyance the appointment of Velasco as court administrator until a formal inquiry is made on this matter to erase any doubts about his fitness to hold this important position.

The Supreme Court is the last bulwark of our judicial system. The confidence of the Filipino people in our judiciary must be maintained at all times. Our people should rest secure that the judiciary in the hands of persons whose integrity is unquestionable.

We believe that the appointment of Velasco must be deferred until after a formal inquiry is finished and his name has been cleared.—**JESUS I. SANTOS, chair, National Association of Lawyers for Justice and Peace**

How can we alleviate poverty?

FOR so long, the government was unconcerned about the true condition of inequality and poverty in the country. It refused to see that the weak were being taken advantage of and left to rot in their shanties in squatter colonies all over the greater Manila area. It was only when the poor angrily stormed Malacañang that the government and the elite finally sat up and took notice.

But despite the promises that the government and business made, their efforts remain halfhearted. Perhaps they can't shake off their old selfish ways. Indeed, if the poor are to be helped at all, the government and business will have to shake off the old thought that dole-outs will be enough.

The fact is that the government can't forever extend special privileges to the rich while withholding the privileges that the poor need for their survival. Where is the justice of allowing business the freedom to increase the prices of their products and services while refusing to help labor obtain a decent wage increase corresponding to the increase in the cost of living? This partiality, in case we have forgotten, has a way of ensuring that the rich get richer and the poor poorer.

Consider: We have a law which allows an increase of not more than 10 percent yearly in house/apartment rentals. But the landlords simply ignore it. This is bad because the tenants who have to work in order to pay the monthly rent are not given the wage increase they need to be able to keep up with the spiraling cost of living.

We seem to have forgotten that although there are political and economic prescriptions in the Constitution for equal access to opportunities and benefits, these are sidestepped by the strong.

How will the government succeed in alleviating poverty if officialdom will not help the people get a simple thing like an automatic increase in wage every time the cost of living goes up? How will it arrest the injustice of inequality if it will do nothing to solve the problem? How will our leaders react to the growing impression that they merely use government as a tool for perpetuating themselves in power?

These are what make an Edsa IV inevitable, much as we hate to go through another one again.—**ERNESTO K. MAGTOTO, Las Piñas City**

Environment standards observed in Kanlaon project

ALLOW me to clarify recent news reports criticizing the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for supporting a geothermal project of the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) on Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park (MKNP) in Negros Occidental.

The 24,577-hectare park is part of a system of protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Act of 1992, a law which I authored in the Senate. Even then, as chair of the Senate committee on environment, I already advocated the protection of our forests and biodiversity. More so now that I am environment secretary.

Contrary to claims of oppositionist groups, environmental standards have been carefully addressed. I have personally visited and talked with the people there and we assured the community that we will not only protect but also enhance Mt. Kanlaon.

We will not drive a hole within the forest because technology allows digging of geothermal holes downhill, without disturbing the forest.

This is only an energy-generating project. The DENR has a program to strengthen the reforestation of the entire park, even creating a nursery for seedlings for the park.

It must be understood that the bill was crafted, debated and enacted by Congress, and it is therefore a collective decision of the legislature.

Originally, the PNOC asked for a 1,850-hectare area to develop but the bill allots only 169 hectares of the park for the plant's site located at the buffer zone outside the park. We were able to convince the PNOC to decrease this even further and develop only about 30 to 50 hectares or a mere 2 percent of the park's total area. The park area of 24,523 hectares will be protected.

According to PNOC, there is a projected power deficiency in Negros Occidental of about 40 MW by year 2003 or 2004. The province is the only one in Region VI without a power plant, and it imports 100 MW of its power requirements from the 160-MW Palinpinon Power Plant in Negros Oriental.

When I authored, RA 7683 creating the Department of Energy, I wrote into the law the mandate to systematically reduce our dependence on highly pollutive fossil fuels.

Our initiatives, not only here but also in international forums, is to push for the use of alternative, renewable clean sources of energy such as solar wind, biomass, geothermal, hydropower and natural gas. But the sad reality is that 80 percent of the world is still totally dependent on very polluting cheap coal and crude oil.

I have pressed for provisions in RA 7683 that will call for a shift in the country's sources of energy from coal and fossil fuels to "cleaner" energy alternatives. This law calls for, among other things, the development of an energy program which provides for an "integrated and comprehensive exploration, development, utilization, distribution and conservation for energy resources, with preferential bias for environment-friendly, indigenous and low-cost source of energy..."

The Macapagal administration will support that program for clean energy sources and the DENR will seek a gradual shift to benign sources of energy such as the Mt. Kanlaon geothermal plant.—**HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ, secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

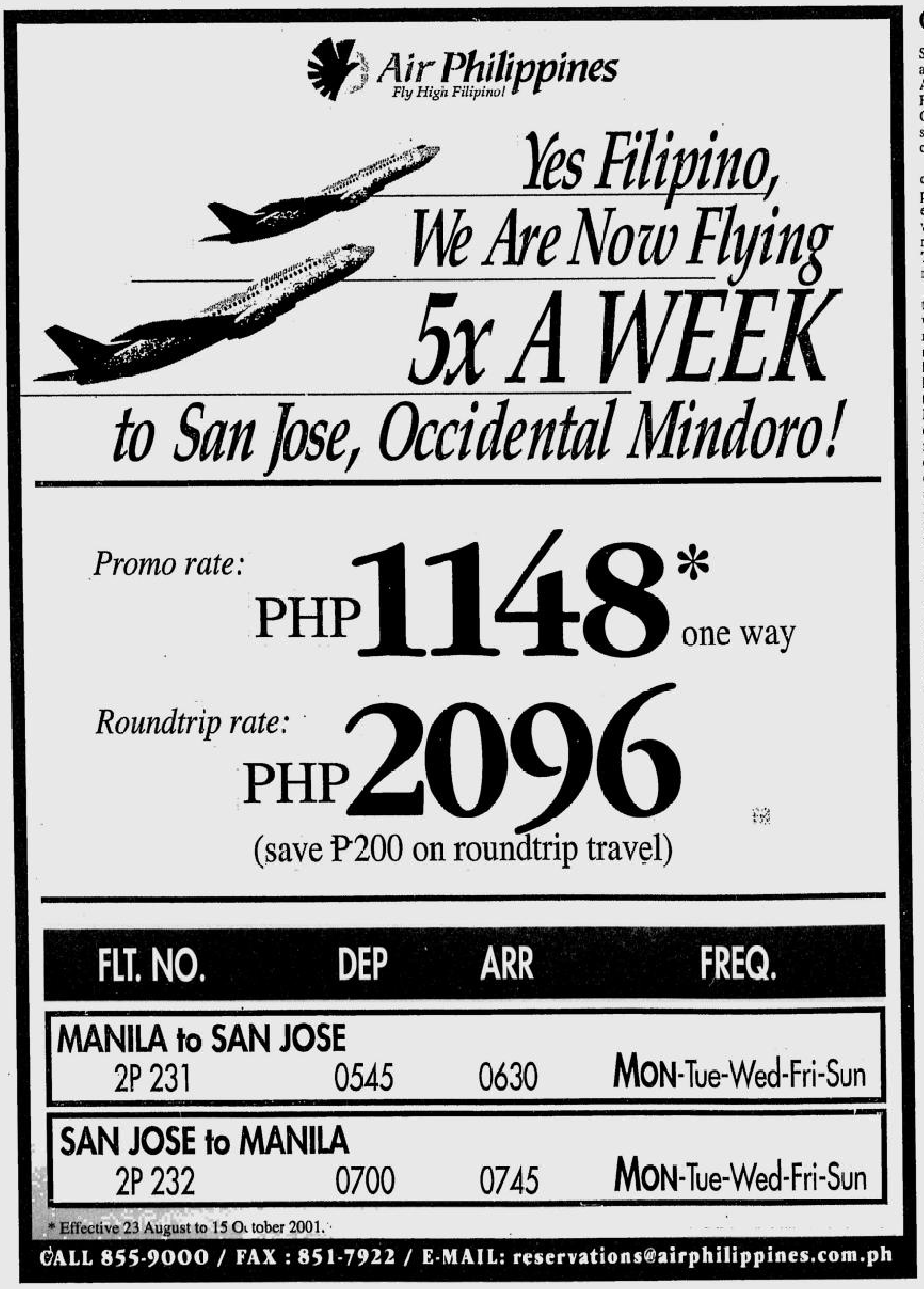
Senators enjoy an unfair advantage

THERE may be a need to resolve an issue which has been bugging many people. I feel that this is unfair, unjust, improper and even immoral. I refer to the practice of some senators of running for higher office in the middle of their term, only to go back to the Senate when they lose. This allows the senators to take a shot at the presidency or vice presidency without any risk of losing their position. This is unfair because other officials who run for public office automatically lose their positions the moment they file their certificates of candidacy. And when they lose, they cannot be appointed to any public office within a year after thé elections. .

We can reduce the number of candidates for the two highest positions if this flaw in our law is immediately corrected. Reducing the number of presidential and vice presidential candidates coming from the Senate will save the Comelec hundreds of millions of pesos. The funds can be put to better use in other government projects.

Please do not misinterpret my point in bringing this matter. The senators are not "special people," especially since some of them got to the Senate through *dagdag-bawas*, cheating, vote-buying and other fraudulent practices. Therefore, they too must be treated the same way as the others.

If the present Senate has some *delicadeza*, its members would correct this defect now.—**MANUEL L. MORATO, Doña Consuelo Bldg., 192-194 Tomas B. Morato Ave., Quezon City**



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Guingona shouldn't be DFA chief

SANLAKAS wants to call the attention of the Commission on Appointments to Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto T. Guingona's recent shameless and spineless response to the arrogance of one US official.

Guingona is clearly unfit to become the foreign secretary whose primary role is to defend our sovereignty and the people's interests within the context of our external relations with foreign governments. Thus the appointment of Guingona must be blocked.

We are making this public call in the light of the recent incident involving Elmer Cato, executive director of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) Commission, and US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Michael Malinowsky. During a meeting between the two diplomats, Malinowsky in effect accused Cato of blocking the US military forces from conducting unilateral military exercises in Pampanga. Cato reportedly argued that such a unilateral action is a clear violation of the 1998 RP-US VFA which stipulates that all military exercises involving US forces should be in joint conduct with Philippine military forces.

In that incident, it was reported that Malinowski berated Cato in a very angry and arrogant manner to the point of shouting invectives at him. As a result, Cato reported his exchange with Malinowski to his senior officials, including Guingona. But instead of defending the Philippines' sovereignty (in relation to the VFA) and the position of one of his own foreign service officers, Guingona was reported to have belittled the incident and responded in a very indifferent manner to a matter of vital national interest to our country.

It is in this regard, therefore, that Sanlakas now calls on the Commission on Appointments to reject Guingona's appointment as foreign affairs secretary. Likewise, we also call on the Philippine government to immediately declare Malinowsky persona *non grata* and to send a *démarche* to the US government over this latest incident of imperialist arrogance.—**RASTI DELIZO, alliance coordinator, Sanlakas, 92 Masikap St., Bgy. Central, Diliman, Quezon City**

Senate must render its verdict

WHEN Col. Victor Corpus sounded the alarm about the menace of drugs, he was in panic. He looked like someone who didn't know how to contain a conflagration because the firemen could be bribed to do nothing.

In contrast, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop was much better organized in his presentation of the structure of the drug menace, complete with dossiers and photographs of persons in the network of drug manufacturing and distribution. He offered to share with Corpus his information so they could fight the "real enemies" together.

The wonder is why Acop's group allowed the menace to proliferate when they had known for many years its structure like the lines on the palm of their hands. If Corpus had not insisted that the Senate hear him out, we could well be swallowed up by this monstrosity, considering the disclosure of Acop (confirming Corpus' claim) that the courts and other agencies of the government are in the grip of its tentacles.

Acop and Mary Ong may be telling half-truths. The Senate can get the whole truth by putting their separate testimony together.

It is disturbing that some senators were reluctant to look into the problem until Corpus showed during a press conference a wrong photograph. This led to Sen. Robert Barbers to file a resolution seeking an investigation.

Some senators who had demanded that the hearings be stopped have now quieted down in the face of adverse public reaction. But some senators have declared that the investigation cannot accomplish anything substantial because this is merely in aid of legislation and the Senate has no authority to sanction its members for acts committed before their election to the Senate.

The question before the senators is the menace of drugs, and how this has creeped into practically all aspects of national life. It is now time for the senators to exercise all the powers of their office to find out the truth and crush this evil that stalks us. At the end of the investigation, each senator has an obligation to come out with his verdict in unequivocal terms on how the drug menace came about and how to deal with those responsible for it.—**E.P. DAKANAY JR., 43 Baltazar St., Philamlife Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas City**

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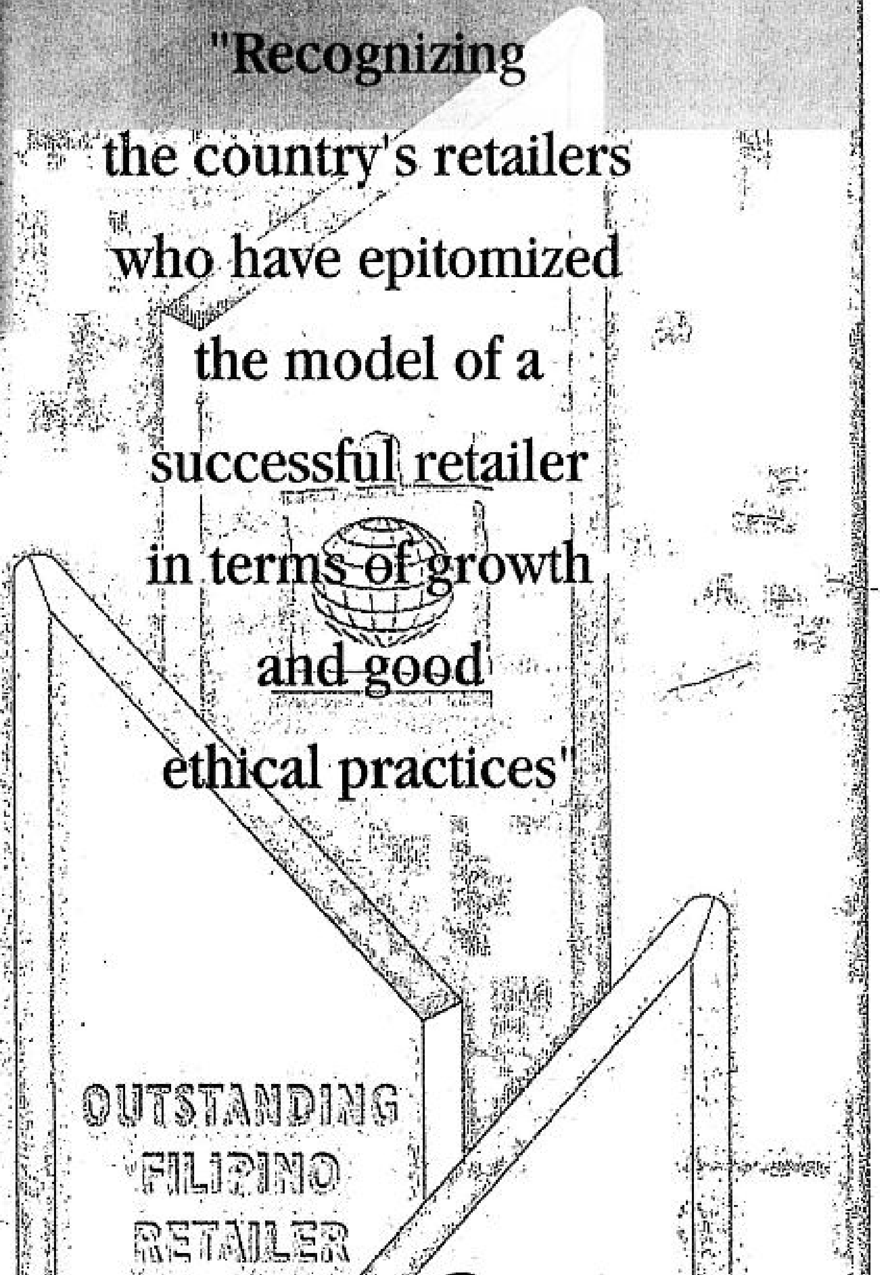

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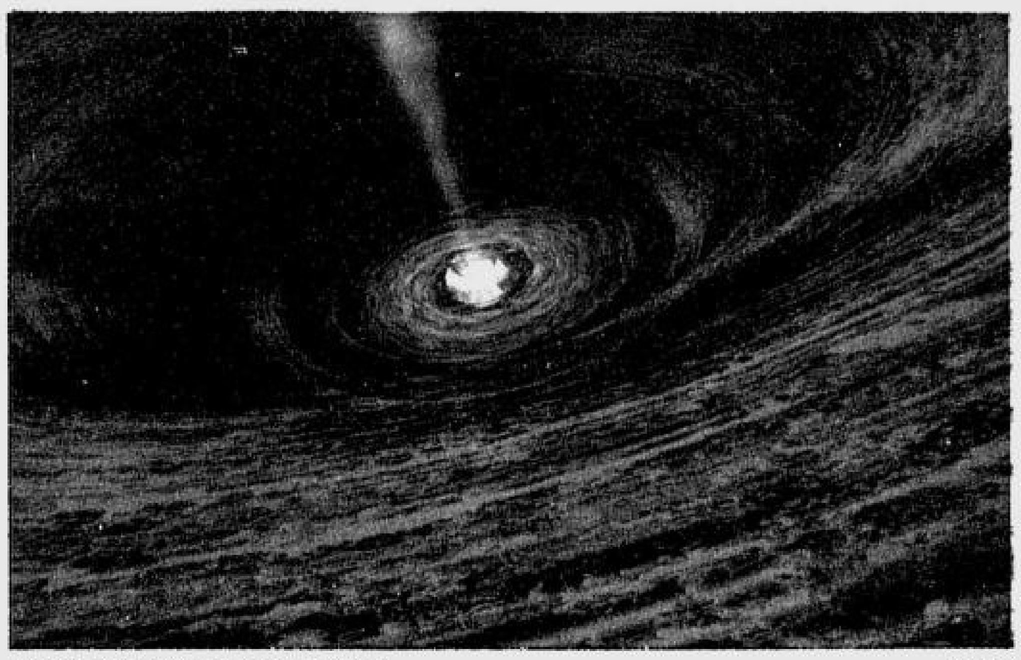

MILKY WAY BLACK HOLE REUTERS

Massachusetts Institute of Technology astronomers on Sept. 5 said they had pinpointed a tiny area at the Milky Way's heart where a black hole with a mass of 2.6 million suns is likely to lurk. Shown above is an artist's concept of matter swirling into a supermassive black hole.

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Japan to apologize for US POWs' misery

TOKYO—At a weekend ceremony in the United States to commemorate the treaty ending World War II, Japan's foreign minister is set to apologize for the suffering of Americans who were held as prisoners of war by the Japanese military, a Japanese newspaper reported yesterday.

Japanese Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka will meet with Secretary of State Colin Powell in San Francisco on Saturday, when a ceremony will be held in remembrance of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty bearing the city's name.

Tanaka has decided to offer an apology at the ceremony for the suffering of American POWs in an attempt to soothe what remains a sore spot between the two countries, the nationally circulated Asahi newspaper reported.

A number of former American POWs have unsuccessfully sued Japanese companies for using them as forced labor during the war, and this year US lawmakers in for such suits to be filed.

The US State Department's official position is that the 1951 peace treaty waived all future compensation claims against Japan.

The unattributed report by the Asahi did not indicate whether Tanaka planned to apologize directly to American veterans or do so during her meeting with Powell.

The newspaper said that the language of the apology would be based on a 1995 speech made by then-prime minister Tomiichi Murayama marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the World War II. *AP*

Iraq accuses UN staff of espionage

UNITED NATIONS—Iraq said Thursday that it had ordered five UN staff out of the country this week for spying for the United States, and created confusion by claiming to have expelled several others in recent months.

Officials and diplomats here said they knew of only one other recent case: that of a contractor with the UN oil-for-food program who was withdrawn at Baghdad's request on Aug. 30 after taking photographs in a sensitive area.

Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, Mohammad al-Douri, told reporters his government had evidence to prove that four Nigerian men and one Bosnian woman employed by the program had been spying.

He refused to go into details, saying: "They know exactly what they did, and the states who are behind them know exactly what was done and how Iraq was damaged."

Asked to name those states, he replied: "The United States maybe is behind those people." When asked to confirm that he was talking about spies, he said: "Yes, those five people for the United States."

But the director of the oil-for-food program, Benon Sevan, told reporters after briefing the council that Iraq had failed to explain its decision.

"If you charge someone with unbecoming behavior—non-conformity to the mandate given to the program—it is only fair that you provide the secretary general with necessary information and details of the charges made," he said.

UN officials said the five, all data collectors, were employed to monitor the distribution by the Iraqi government of food and other essential goods imported under the program.

The program, set up in December 1996 to alleviate the impact of sanctions on the Iraqi people, has imported more than $15-billion worth of goods and employs 900 staff. Another $12.5 billion worth are in the pipeline.

Sevan said two of the five were outside Iraq when they were declared persona non grata—"One was transferred almost two months ago to another mission, and another was on vacation"—and he withdrew the others for their own safety. *AFP*

Acrimonious race meet limps into final day

DURBAN, South Africa—A UN global conference on racism limped into its last scheduled day yesterday driven by differences over the Middle East conflict and African calls for slavery reparations.

Marathon negotiations have so far failed to minimize differences between the European and Arab groups which have persisted since the United States and Israel walked out of the conference on Monday over "offensive" language on the Middle East.

Since then South Africa, which is chairing the conference in Durban, on the east coast, has produced two new draft texts to address the issue; the latest, presented early Thursday, as a "take-it-or-leave-it" option.

The Arab countries want Israel to be condemned by the UN World Conference Against Racism for its treatment of the Palestinians, while the Europeans reject the singling out of any country.

Disputed wording in original conference documents produced during preparatory meetings had referred to "ethnic cleansing" of Palestinians, described Israel as an apartheid state engaged in a crime against humanity, and referred to "the racist practices of Zionism."

The latest text, produced by South Africa's Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, expresses concern for the "plight of the Palestinian people under foreign occupation," but avoids any explicit condemnation of Israel.

Arab sources said the Arab caucus at the conference had rejected the text in its current form and wanted it amended.

European sources said the European caucus also had problems with it, including a generic acknowledgement of the right of refugees to return home, which is not currently enshrined in international law.

The text also includes recognition of the "inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state" and recognition of the "right to security for all states in the region, including Israel."

"We recognize the right of refugees to return voluntarily to their homes and properties in dignity and safety, and urge all states to facilitate such return," it says.

African countries' demands for reparations for slavery is the other key sticking point at the conference, and no agreement had been reached by late Thursday on that text despite the mediation of Brazil and Kenya. *AFP*

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Australia-spurned refugees face extended ordeal at sea

SYDNEY—Hundreds of unwanted asylum seekers may be forced to spend at least another week packed on an Australian troop ship while a judge decides whether they can disembark at Papua New Guinea.

The 433 mainly Afghan asylum-seekers, the center of a diplomatic standoff between Australia, Indonesia and Norway when they were rescued from a sinking Indonesian boat, are on their way to Papua New Guinea.

From there they will be flown to New Zealand and the Pacific island of Nauru where their requests for asylum will be assessed.

An Australian defense department official yesterday said HMAS Manoora was not expected to arrive in Papua New Guinea before Monday at the earliest.

However, an Australian judge is yet to rule on whether the government acted unlawfully in preventing the asylum-seekers from landing at the Australian territory of Christmas Island.

Civil liberties lawyers in Melbourne are seeking a court order to bring the asylum seekers back to Australia for processing as refugees.

Court officials in Melbourne said Federal Court judge Tony North was still considering the evidence. He may deliver his decision any time but until then the asylum seekers must remain on board the Manoora.

If North rejects the claim by civil liberties groups then 150 of the asylum seekers will be flown to New Zealand and the remaining 283 to Nauru. Australia is meeting tiny Nauru's costs.

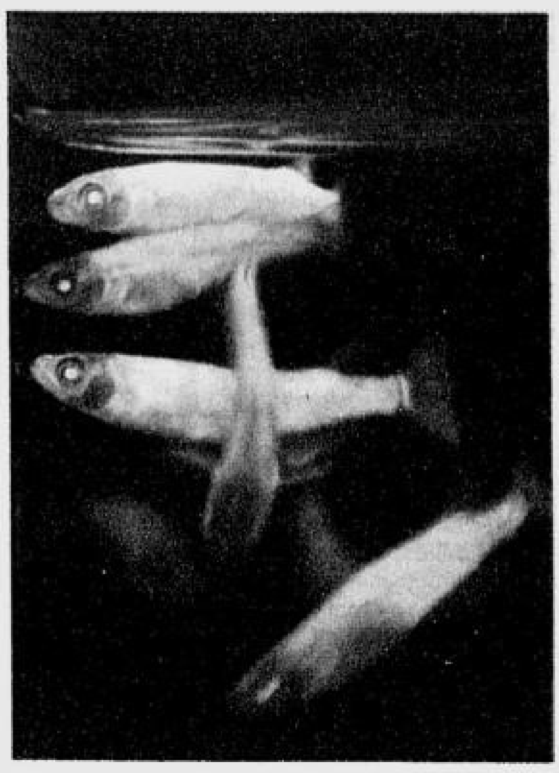
The government is almost certain to lodge an appeal with the Federal Court if North rules against it.

But the Federal Court has a history of ruling against the government on refugee issues, so the case may not end there either. It may go to the High Court, which has an equally long history of overturning verdicts of the Federal Court.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard refused to let a Norwegian container ship land the asylum seekers last month, forcing the ship to lie off Christmas Island for a week before an Australian Navy ship took them off.

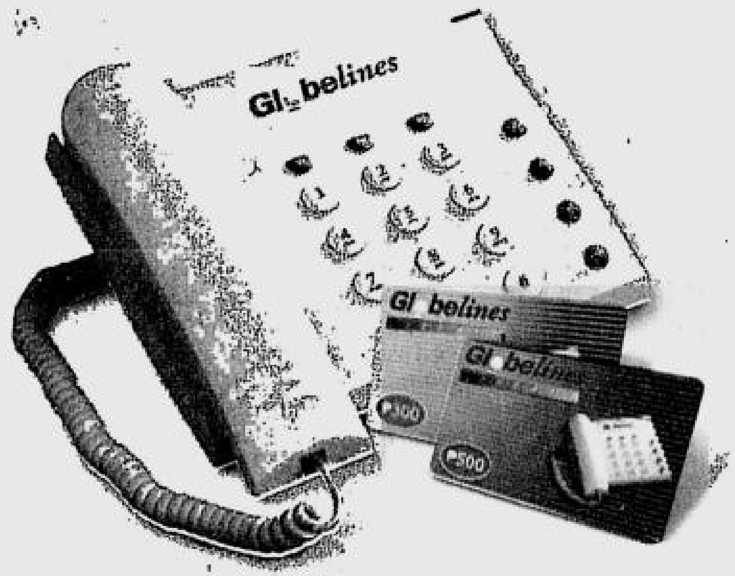
Howard says he refused the boat people entry because Australia is struggling against rising numbers of illegal immigrants, mostly from the Middle East and Afghanistan, who pay people smugglers to bring them from Indonesia to islands off Australia's vast northwest coast.

A high-level delegation of Australian ministers failed Friday to reach a deal with their Indonesian counterparts in Jakarta to combat people smuggling. *AFP*



NIGHT LIGHT PETS A few genetically modified Medaka fish glow in the dark as they swim in a fish tank in Taipei Sept. 6. Taiwan aquatics firm Taikong Group, which developed the fish, plans to start marketing them as the world's first glow-in-the-dark pet in six months.

REUTERS



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Home-schooling movement in US gaining numbers

CHICAGO—They only account for a fraction of the 53 million kids in US schools, but the numbers of children in the home-schooling movement are on the up, advocates say.

Officials put the figure at 850,000, or 1.7 percent of the school-age population, but the National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI), an advocacy group, estimates the figure to be closer to 2 million, or 3.7 percent, and growing at the rate of 7-15 percent a year.

Their numbers are concentrated in the West and in the southern Bible Belt of the United States, in part because the movement had its origins in the evangelical Christian community.

The movement took off in the 1980s and, by 1993, home tutelage was legal in all 50 US states.

But in addition to wanting to instill their own values in their children, many home-schooling parents are dissatisfied with the quality of teaching in the US public school system.

To a lesser extent, some also cite safety concerns in deciding to yank their kids out of public schools, particularly in the wake of highly publicized gun violence.

The outstanding results achieved by home-schooled competitors in national spelling bee competitions have highlighted some of the successes of the movement.

Even so, advocates warn that home-schooling is not a task to be undertaken lightly.

"It's a significant commitment of time and preparation," said Bill Lloyd, director of the NHERI's Washington, DC, branch.

"If the parents aren't ready, then it can be a very unsatisfactory experience for everybody."

For the Faas family, it also involved a great deal of material sacrifice.

"We could have had a bigger, nicer house, better cars, better clothes, nicer vacations. But it's worth any sacrifice to be able to look at your children and see that they have grown up to be healthy, wholesome people with a purpose in life," said Kathy Faas. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Lifestyle big heart killer

PARIS—Women are less likely to die from heart disease than men, not because they are protected by female sex hormones but because men are more vulnerable to lifestyle risks such as dietary fat, researchers say. University of Bristol health sleuths trawled through mortality statistics in 50 countries in a bid to explain what they call "the 20th-century epidemic" of male deaths from heart attacks in the industrialized world. *AFP*

Temporary release

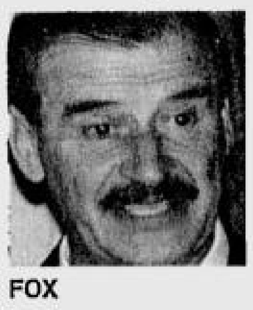
PLAVSIC

BELGRADE—Former Bosnian Serb president Biljana Plavsic, who faces charges at the UN war crimes court, returned to Belgrade Thursday, saying her temporary release was a recognition by the international community of Serbian government policies. Plavsic, 71, is to live in an apartment in Belgrade under 24-hour police surveillance until her trial in The Hague next year. She has been accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity and of genocide for her role during the 1992-95 Bosnian war by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). "I am happy and moved to set foot on our soil. I thank the Serbian government for having given guarantees to the ICTY," Plavsic, her voice shaking, told journalists at Belgrade airport. *AFP*

Mideast violence kills 3

JERUSALEM—After a day of violence that left two Palestinian militants and one Israeli soldier dead, Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Thursday night he would meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat next week in a bid to halt 11 months of Mideast bloodshed. Peres, speaking in Cernobbio, Italy, said the talks with Arafat would be in the Middle East but didn't give an exact date or place. Peres said he envisioned a series of three meetings. *AP*

Fox addresses US Congress



FOX

WASHINGTON—Immigration reform may be too complex to complete by year's end, President George W. Bush said in response to the plea of visiting Mexican President Vicente Fox. Undaunted, Fox told Americans "we need your trust" to swiftly legalize millions of undocumented immigrants. Seeking Thursday to ease decades of cross-border suspicion, Fox addressed a joint meeting of the US Congress and then flew with Bush aboard Air Force One to address Hispanic voters in Toledo, Ohio. "The time has come for Mexico and the United States to trust each other," Fox said. *AP*

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Atong Ang gave me ₱5M, says Kuratong head's sis

DIPOLOG CITY—A sister of one of the men who were killed in the now infamous Kuratong-Baleleng case admitted receiving money to abandon murder charges filed against the policemen who were involved in the alleged rubout, including now Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Myrna Sorronda Abalora, a sister of alleged gang leader Wilson Sorronda, said she received P5 million from Charlie "Atong" Ang, a friend of ousted President Joseph Estrada, to sign an affidavit of desistance against the alleged perpetrators of the rubout.

Abalora said she was given the money at the Heritage Hotel on Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

She alleged that the affidavit she signed was prepared by Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino and Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao, top aides of Lacson then.

"I want the case to be reopened," Abalora said Wednesday.

Abalora, whose two sons were among the 11 alleged bank robbers killed by the police in May 1995, said she was happy over the possibility that the case would be reopened.

Abalora recounted that her two sons, Sherwin, 17, and Rey, 21, left for Manila from Dipolog on May 15, 1995. They arrived in Manila on the morning of May 17.

The next day she was awakened by a neighbor who heard of news that her two sons were among those killed in a shootout with the police in Quezon City.

Also killed in the suspected rubout were her sister and brother-in-law, and their 14-year-old son, Melubrin.

But while welcoming the possible reopening of the case, Abalora said she has worries about the consequence of her going back to court as a complainant against Lacson, and other officials of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF).

Abalora said she was forced to sign the affidavit of desistance even without consulting her lawyers after being convinced that cases against "big fish" will go nowhere.

"While I don't spend for my lawyers, I have to spend for my food and transportation in going to Manila to follow-up the case," she told the INQUIRER.

In Pagadian City, Misamis Occidental board member Renato Parojinog denied allegations by Danny Devnani, an Indian-born businessman, that he was one of the associates of jailed President Estrada and Lacson in the country's largest criminal syndicate.

When he testified on Aug. 23, Devnani said he personally knew Parojinog but the board member denied knowing the businessman.

The Indian national, one of the witnesses produced by intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus, tagged Parojinog, as the sixth among the 10 "evils" led by deposed President Estrada.

The other alleged "evils" are former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada and Ang.

Lawyer Cornelio Villarino, Parojinog's counsel told the INQUIRER that Devnani made a "wild accusation against my client."

Villarino said Devnani's declaration in the Senate hearing "was prejudicial as the person he accused was absent in that forum."

He also challenged Devnani and Corpus "that if they have evidence, they should file it in the proper court and not in a body which is conducting a probe in aide of legislation."

"He (Parojinog) has never entered Lexus or the so-called Club 419," he said. Club 419 was later changed to Club IBC under Devnani's management.

Parojinog won a seat in the provincial board in the May 14 local elections while his younger brother Reynaldo is now the new mayor of Ozamiz City.

The Parojinogs were put in the spotlight a few years ago after they were tagged as principal leaders of the Kuratong Baleleng Gang, a charge which they both denied. ***Lullie Micabalo and Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Fear of bombing grips residents of Pagadian

PAGADIAN CITY—A contraption made to look like a bomb created panic here, days after an explosion killed three and wounded nine others.

Police said the "fake bomb" contained nails and other materials that made it look like a real bomb. It was found in the Bureau of Internal Revenue office here.

The fake bomb's discovery came after the Sept. 4 bombing that has brought fear among residents here.

It also came after local police spent much of their time responding to calls for help from people who reported receiving bomb threats.

Most of the threats turned out to be false.

The Sept. 4 explosion also made city residents extra-cautious.

People had become fidgety over items such as bags, cartons or tin cans abandoned on roadsides, public places or bus terminals.

"All our time were consumed on those bomb calls," Chief Insp. Dionesio Perdiguez Jr., city police chief, said.

"And all those bomb calls turned out to be negative," Perdiguez said, adding that they will not take any call for help for granted after Tuesday's bomb explosion.

Two of the people who died in the explosion were policemen.

The first bomb call on Wednesday was at 9 a.m. when passengers of a Cagayan de Oro-bound Rural Transit Bus noticed a box left by a person. A team of the Police Explosive Ordnance Unit was dispatched, and it took them about an hour to open the box. It turned out that there was no bomb inside.

Four hours later, a certain Bimbong Bambi called the police claiming that an unidentified person left a small box inside the toilet of the Cerilles Bus Terminal, just a few meters from where the powerful bomb exploded Tuesday.

Responding policemen again found no bomb.

At 3:45 p.m., a security guard at the Pagadian City Pilot School called up the police that one of their students found a knapsack that contained a small clock.

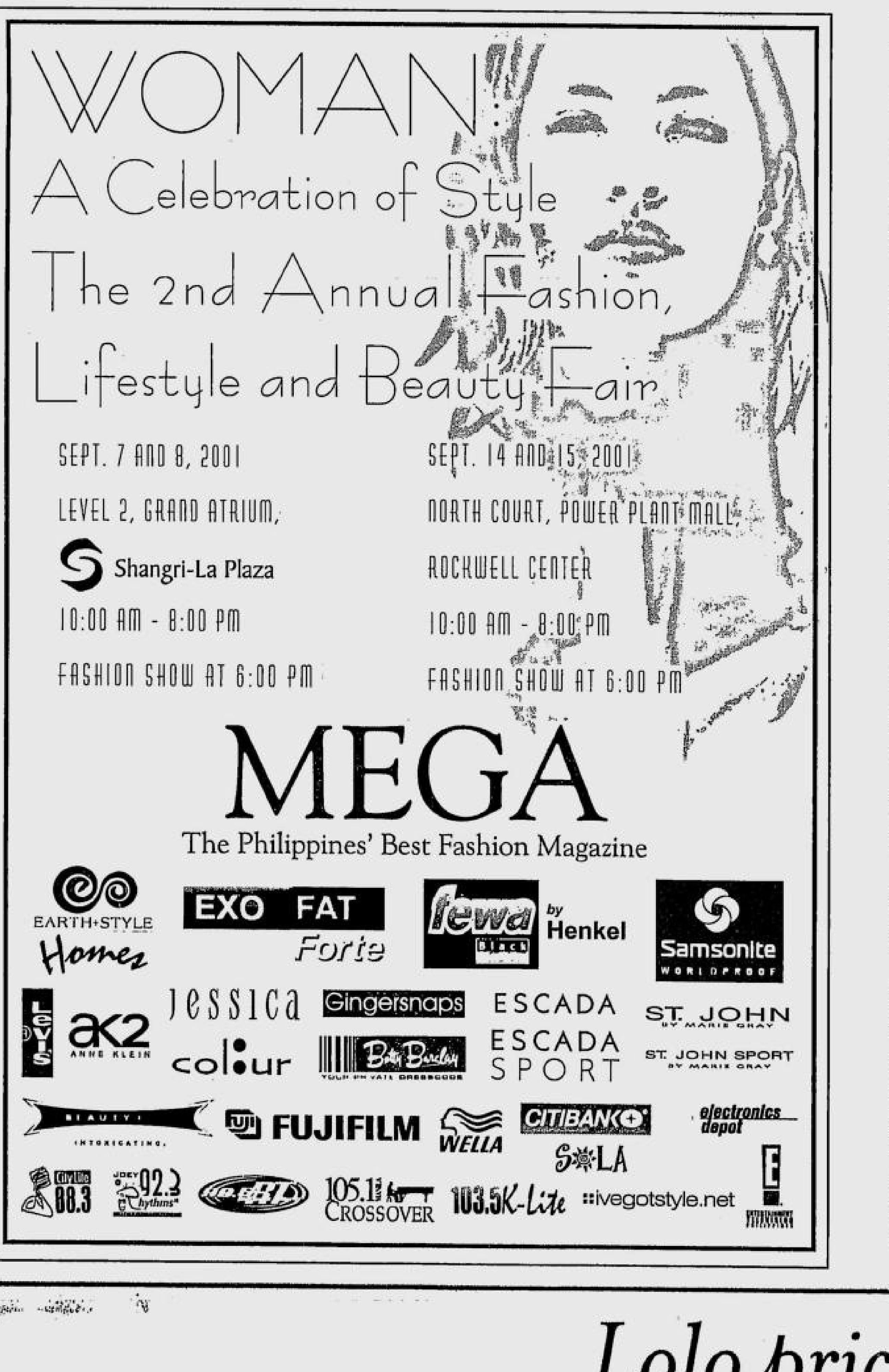
Alarmed by the call, policemen rushed to the school.

The police immediately cleared the school of its students, prompting parents to panic.

Inside the bag, however, was an alarm clock, a pair of jeans, t-shirts and a *malong*.

At 7:20 p.m., residents near the Margosatubig jeepney terminal called up police, claiming that an unidentified man left a box.

Police immediately rushed to the area and sealed off four major thoroughfares, creating a traffic jam. ***Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



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NPA guerrillas abduct, murder ex-town mayor

DAVAO CITY—Gunmen believed to be communist guerrillas abducted and killed the former mayor of a remote town in Davao del Norte on Wednesday afternoon, the military here said.

Col. Felipe Berroya said Jose Libayao, an Ata-Matigsalog tribal leader who became the mayor of Talaingod town, died of multiple wounds from a 9-mm pistol.

Berroya said Libayao was representing his wife, Pilar, current mayor of Talaingod, in a meeting with officials of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and leaders of Barangay Sto. Niño when some 40 New People's Army rebels led by a certain Commander Ben Jack came in.

Berroya said the former mayor, a staunch anti-communist advocate, presented himself when he heard that the rebels were calling his name.

After taking him in, the rebels split into two groups. One group immediately shoved Libayao into a car and sped off while the other group stayed to cordon off the area.

After a while, the group that took Libayao, came back without the mayor and together with the second group, immediately left.

Libayao's body was later found, about a kilometer away from the municipal hall.

The slain mayor became a celebrity in Southern Mindanao when he led his tribe in a "*pangayao*" (holy war) against the NPA about two years ago.

There has been no ceasefire in areas where communist guerrillas operate despite the holding of peace talks between the government and the Netherlands-based National Democratic Front.

The talks were stalled following complaints by government negotiators over a congratulatory message sent by the NDF to its guerrillas here for the assassination of former Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

Silvestre Bello III, head of the government negotiating panel, said the talks would resume soon and expressed hope that an agreement could be worked out.

Bello said the government was not protesting the killing of Aguinaldo as a violation of the talks' terms but it was protesting the congratulatory message sent by the NDF to communist guerrillas here for the former congressman's killing.

Aguinaldo had long been in the communist hit list for his anti-communist activities in Cagayan and for his alleged role in human rights abuses during the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon and Central Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over extreme Northern Luzon. The rest of the country will be cloudy at times with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Baguio	Cloudy with rains	HI 24° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 22°
Laoag	Cloudy with rains	HI 26° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/09/08/01

ROUNDUP

Bank robbed of ₱1.2M

BALANGA CITY—Two armed men robbed a rural bank in Barangay Parang-Parang in Orani town on Wednesday and took at least P1.2 million in cash. Police said the suspects took the money from the tellers' drawers of the Rural Bank of Pilar branch in Orani. Reports said the bank's security guard, Ronald Sunga, 29, was out taking his lunch when the armed men struck.

Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

New teachers board

BAGUIO CITY—The Philippine Public School Teachers Association (PPSTA) has elected a new board of directors during the 35th PPSTA National Representative Assembly here. Elected were Dr. Primo Mina, Ilocos; Aurelio Salunat, Cagayan Valley; Pedro Cruz, Central Luzon; Ramon Asuncion Jr., Southern Tagalog; Eleutario Castillo, Bicol; Jesus Latumbo, Western Visayas; Gervacio Germano Sr., Eastern Visayas; Ranulfo Depalo, Western Mindanao; Dr. Tamano Pandapatan, Central Mindanao; Loreto Rafolo, Caraga; Cesar Francis, Metro Manila; Fernando Elopanga, Cordillera; and Somerada Bonacag, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Soldier wounded in clash

PALO, Leyte—A soldier was wounded in an encounter Monday with 16 suspected members of the New People's Army in a village in Albuera town, 133 kilometers from here. Sgt. Jovito Aying of the 81st Infantry Battalion based in Sogod town, Southern Leyte, was hit in the right shoulder during the 30-minute gunfight with the rebels. He was airlifted to the hospital of the Armed Forces Visayas Command in Cebu City. A report reaching the Army's 8th Infantry Division in Samar said Aying and 14 other soldiers were patrolling Sitio Kabusturan, Barangay Mahayag, Albuera when they chanced upon a group of suspected rebels. *Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Nur promotes 4 men

COTABATO CITY—Nur Misuari has promoted four lower ranking Moro National Liberation Front members to key MNLF posts after his bid to win back "prodigal members" failed to materialize. Those promoted were Abduljabbar Jialil, who was named vice chief of staff in place of Sulu Gov. Yusoph Jikiri; Rashid Rasul as political affairs secretary; Julhambre Misuari as chief of the Bangsamoro Armed Forces and Mohammad Nur Natchai as deputy secretary general for administration. A council of 15 ranking Moro leaders, which included Muslimin Sema, the MNLF secretary general, earlier ousted Misuari as MNLF chair. Mahendra Madjilon, a spokesperson for Misuari, said more appointees to sensitive MNLF positions will be known after the governor returns from Bangkok.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Army completes projects

DAVAO CITY—The Army's 55th Engineering Brigade based in San Gabriel, Tugbok District here reported that it completed some P40-million worth of infrastructure projects in Southern Mindanao and in the war-stricken areas of Central Mindanao from January to June this year. Col. Fred Castro, 55th Engineering Brigade commander, said the projects were school buildings, building facilities, farm-to-market roads and irrigation springs. He said they are hoping to complete some P50-million worth of similar projects particularly in Central Mindanao.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Mt. Binatukay normal

BALINGASAG, Misamis Oriental—The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology officially declared Mt. Binatukay in a "normal state." Mt. Binatukay, an inactive volcano in Barangay Kibanban and Lantad here, was reportedly becoming restless. Residents said they saw smoke formations last week. Engr. Edwin de la Cruz, Phivolcs science research analyst, in a press conference, clarified that contrary to reports, there was no volcanic activity in Mt. Binatukay based on tests they conducted.

Ellen Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Tornado hits Pikit

KIDAPAWAN, Cotabato—At least 88 houses were damaged while tons of farm crops were destroyed when a tornado hit five villages in Pikit, Cotabato on Tuesday night. Zaida Rinsulat, provincial social welfare officer said about 100 families were displaced when the whirlwind, which lasted for about 10 minutes, hit Barangays Gligli, Balong, Poblacion, Mabuwal, and Ladtingan. No one was reported hurt, but Rinsulat said the damage caused to agriculture could run to millions of pesos.

Rosa-May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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DISRUPTED LIFE CHARLIE SACEDA

Some things have to be sacrificed in the Army's pursuit of Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan. These include the normal life that this boy from the Yakan tribe in Sumisip town has to give up.

Suspected whistle-blower of jail abuses beaten up

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—An inmate at the provincial jail here was punished after he was suspected of exposing the alleged abuses of jail guards, officials here said on Thursday.

Billy Tomas, who suffered severe bruises in the stomach and legs, was reportedly beaten up by jail trustee Rodolfo Tejada, after Tejada suspected him of disclosing to the media alleged irregularities inside the jail, including maltreatment, harassment and extortion.

"According to the *bastonero* (trustee), that was his (Tomas') punishment for a misdemeanor," Benzon Cadiente, acting jail warden, said.

"(The trustee), however, later admitted his secondary motive was that he wanted to know Billy's participation in the preparation of the (complaint) letters."

On Aug. 9, the INQUIRER reported the alleged irregularities at the provincial jail, which were based on protest letters sent by inmates.

Cadiente, however, clarified that they would impose disciplinary measures on Tejada for giving an "inhuman punishment" to a fellow inmate.

"I told him (Tejada) that he has to face the consequences of his actions," he said.

According to Cadiente, Tomas was punished after improvised garden tools were found in his cell. The inmate, however, claimed he had brought in the tools "by accident," the warden said.

Due to his injuries, Tomas was taken to the Veterans' Regional Hospital here for treatment, with Tejada shouldering the medical expenses.

The punishment on Tomas had caught the attention of members of the provincial board here who were conducting a closed-door inquiry into the jail scandal.

Board members, however, declined to comment on the bashing incident.

In another probe, Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani said he had asked investigators from the Philippine National Police to look into the alleged jail abuses.

Officers from the PNP Women's Desk had interviewed female detainees, Agbayani said, "to allow the inmates to speak freely about what was really going on inside (the jail)."

Results of the interviews, however, were not immediately released to the media.

Earlier, inmates who requested anonymity for fear of reprisal, in separate complaint letters, sought the replacement of jail personnel whom they accused of corruption, cruelty and immorality.

They claimed that guards extorted money from them or their visitors to use the money for gambling or for liquor. ***Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Dynamited fish seized in Iloilo port

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Police and fishery authorities here intercepted P130,000 worth of fish caught with the use of dynamites in waters off Palawan in a dawn raid on Wednesday on the Iloilo Fishing Port Complex in Molo District.

Ninety tubs of *dalagang bukid* loaded in a truck from North Baluarte Beach were found abandoned inside the fish port compound after a short chase made by the Molo police. The driver disappeared amid a crowd of fish vendors and brokers inside the fish port complex.

Remy Alido, a fish broker whose truck hauled the fish, went to the police station but denied owning the fish. She said an unidentified fish broker hired her truck. She also denied knowing the driver.

Insp. Marina Sumaria said charges would be filed once the driver and the owner of the confiscated fish are identified. The truck, with license plate FVX 710, was impounded at the police precinct.

Josegil Parreñas, city agriculturist, said they tested the confiscated fish and found them to have been caught through blast fishing.

He said that the fish's eyes were red, their scales were falling off and their bones were broken, which, he said, were signs that they died due to the impact of the blast.

Wednesday's haul was the second this year. The first was in February when the Molo police caught some 90 tubs of fish caught off Palawan waters.

"We have been receiving reports of illegally-caught fish landing (in) the city's coasts since last year but it appears that some unscrupulous fish brokers have gotten wind of our surveillance operations," said Sumaria.

"Instead of bringing the fish to the fish port, they brought them to other wharves in the city," he said.

The seized 90 tubs of fish were given away to orphanages, social welfare clients, police precincts, jail inmates and 12 barangays in Molo before the fish rot.

Environment permit sought for port plan

BY ALEX PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The city council passed on Thursday a resolution ordering the Philippine Ports Authority to secure an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for its proposed fast-ferry terminal and reclamation project at the port area.

Members of environmentalist groups inside the council hall clapped and cheered after the measure was passed.

The council was earlier bent on passing a resolution reaffirming the city government's support to the proposed Dumaguete Fast Ferry Terminal and to request the PPA to extend their Port Development Plan.

The extension would cover an area from Katada Street to the corner of Rovira East Drive in Bantayan, passing through the South Seas Resort Hotel and the former North Pole Hotel.

The fast-ferry terminal and the reclamation project at the port area are part of the PPA's Port Development Plan, which was ready for implementation in 1997.

But environmentalist groups from Silliman University and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan opposed the plan.

They said the city government did not have to reclaim the 1.3 hectares of the shoreline in front of Silliman University just to put a ferry terminal.

The reclamation project, they said, would be bad for the city's famous landmark, the 800-meter-long Rizal Boulevard that faces the sea.

The project would also destroy corals, which support the subsistence of fishermen living on the shoreline of Dumaguete.

Environmentalist groups strongly opposed the resolution of Councilor Nelson Patrimonio, committee chair on environment, endorsing the projects.

On Wednesday, the council was about to tackle the resolution when environmentalists in the session hall suddenly displayed their placards, denouncing the PPA's plan to reclaim part of the only remaining seafront of the Silliman University campus.

This caught many councilors by surprise.

At the instance of Councilor Myrish Cadapan, the council again listened to the spectators who wanted to be heard.

Dr. Hilconida Calumpong, director of the Silliman Marine Laboratory, said they agreed that Dumaguete needs a fast-ferry terminal.

But, she said, they questioned the need to reclaim the area in front of the university because the City Engineer's Compound was chosen as the site of the terminal in the master plan of the previous administration.

Telephone wires 'choke' Pangasinan town trees

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—If trees can speak, many of them in the provincial capitol compound here must already be raising a howl.

Reason: They are being strangled by wires put up by a telecommunications company that uses them as posts to connect lines to three government buildings in the area.

Instead of putting up poles, the Digital Telecommunication Co. (Digitel) made use of *agoho*, coconut and *narra* trees at one side of the capitol grounds to connect its telephone lines.

Ferdinand Marquez, Digitel's supervisor in this capital town, admitted that the company used the trees as poles, saying they only followed the examples of other communications companies which connected their telephone lines through the trees.

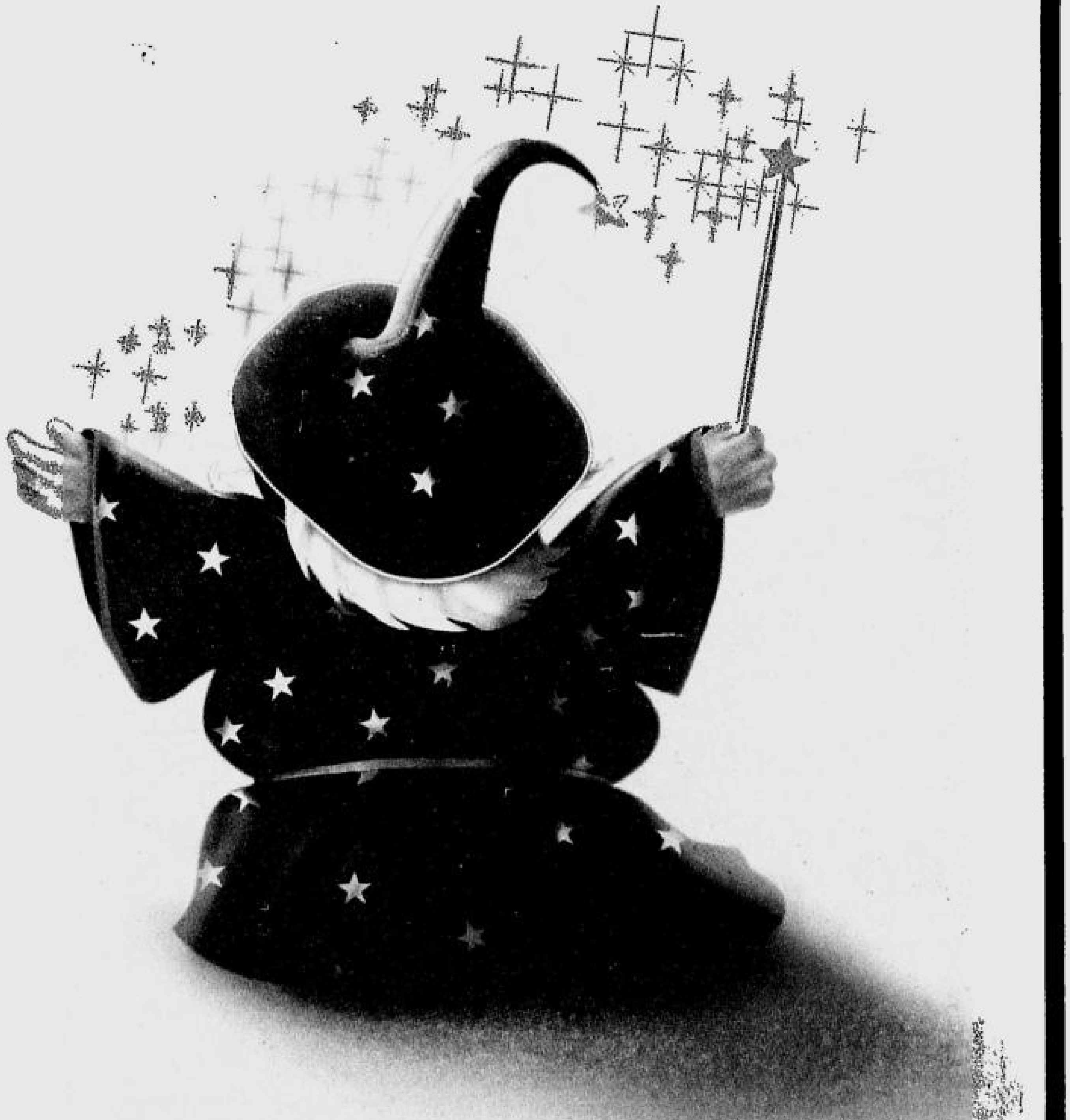
"There were already connections there, so we just followed suit," he said.

He said the Rural Electric Co. (Rutelco) and the Government Regional Telecommunication Systems also connected their lines to the trees. Rutelco had been bought by Digitel.

Marquez said he knew the trees were getting hurt with the system. "Yes, the wires are hurting the trees, especially if the branches to which we connect the wires grow bigger. They get strangled," he noted.

From the trees, the lines dangle toward the Calantiao, Finance and the Land Transportation Office buildings.

Marquez said the Digitel did not seek the approval of the provincial government to use the trees for its operations. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***



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INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

Olango: Bird paradise

STOPOVER: Migratory birds take a breather at the bird sanctuary on Olango Island.

FILE PHOTO/MITSURU SAITO

BY MARVI A. GIL
Cebu City

IF NOT for the birds, the rhythm of life on Olango Island's fishing community would remain unchanged. It would still be trying to maintain an agriculture-based economy off sandy soil, in a place where potable water is bought at P5 per gallon.

Then word got out that Olango was an important stop for flocks of migratory birds (egrets, sandpipers, terns and black-bellied plovers) on their way to summer "homes" in Australia and New Zealand.

This drew the interest of tourists, and life changed for the islanders.

By the mid-1990s, domestic and foreign tourist influx had become relentless and disorganized. Everyone agreed that it was just a matter of time before another rural community will succumb to the lure of tourist money.

It was not uncommon to see fishermen jockeying for positions to get the "best deal" to serve as guides for tourists who wanted to go around the bird sanctuary.

Since the 'tour guides" were untrained and did not even have a basic knowledge of environmental protection, most tourists tramped unrestricted around the fragile ecosystem.

In 1996, the national government finally stepped in to curb the trend. The Coastal Resource Management Project (CRMP) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources started the Olango Birds and Seascape Tour Project (OBST).

The project aimed to get the community to participate wholeheartedly in preserving Olango and ensuring that it will remain "attractive" to migratory birds, and to put a system whereby tourists and tour guides can move around the island without destroying the environment.

It was easy to dismiss the OBST as one of those do-gooder concepts. "Nice on paper but difficult to implement," critics of the project snorted.

But on June 25, the CRMP realized what it had aimed for when it began its project involving community participation. The CRMP turned over full stewardship of the OBST to the Suba Olango Ecotourism Cooperative (SOEC).

Of the 100 families in the island community, more than half, or about 55 families, became members of the cooperative.

Trust gained

The OBST slowly gained the trust of the islanders because of the direct economic benefits they would be deriving from the project.

In 1999, for example, at least 55 percent of gross revenue from tour activities went directly to the community in the form of salaries and profits of members of the cooperative.

Acknowledged as one of the first few ventures where ecology and community survival seemed to have hit a viable economic alliance, the project itself has already received the "Highly Commended Status Award" from the Washington-based Conservation International Ecotourism Awards group.

It was also presented an Anvil Award from the Philippine public relations industry.

It would be an understatement to say that the eyes of the international environmental community were now focused on Olango Island.

Owned and run by the residents of Sitio Suba, a fishing community, the eco-tourism venture provided by the SOEC does not only involve visiting the bird sanctuary areas but also guided diving expeditions to the island's reefs and marine resources.

Today, a regular tour begins with a ferry ride from Mactan Island's eastern coast, across the Gilutongan Channel, to the south side of Olango Island.

The pumpboat wends around the islets of Sulpa, Gilutongan, Nalusuan, Caohagan and Pangan-an before landing on Olango.

The best months to go are from September to November, when birds on southward migration make a "stopover" to the island, and from February to April, when the birds are migrating northward.

The islets on the way to Olango also have interesting features. For example, the water around Sulpa Island is the principal source of clam harvested by fishermen living around the area.

Gilutongan Island, which has been wryly described by law enforcement authorities and environmentalists as the "birthplace" of dynamite fishing in the Philippines, is a site to behold. The shallow waters around the island are now a huge garden of edible seaweed, grown by "sea farmers" who have been contracted to provide dried seaweed to be processed into food additives in factories in Cebu City.

The seaweed farm area is part of the Olango reef complex that is now being rehabilitated. Ten hectares of the reef complex have been designated as a marine sanctuary, guarded and preserved by the very same fishermen who used to be engaged in dynamite fishing.

Dropping anchor in Sitio Suba, visitors transfer to a *banca* (paddled canoe) that will bring them to the shore. At the seaside community center, they are given *buko* (young coconut) juice and regaled with songs, dances and poetry recitals by the villagers as gestures of their warm hospitality.

In individual bancas, the visitors ride through the Suba Channel and the Mangrove Tunnel, up to the Babag Channel where they can comfortably observe the birds.

Cost and effect

The OBST is a day tour that takes five to six hours. Bird watching schedules depend on the behavior of the tides.

Tour bookings are accepted at the cooperative's Mactan office (Tel. No. [032] 2321821 to 22) and require a 24-hour notice plus a written confirmation sent through fax No. 2321825 or 2610593, or e-mail at crmp@oneocean.org *or* ecotour@oneocean.org.

Foreigners are charged US$70 each, while locals are charged P1,500 each for the tour. Both rates apply to groups of 10. The tour operates daily with a maximum of two trips a day. Rates go higher as the number of visitors decreases.

The CRMP helped define and install operating and financial systems for the cooperative. On-the-job training was conducted for the members, most of whom had only elementary education.

Today, the community prepares its own tour income statements.

Samuel Mabitag, chair of the cooperative and who himself used to be engaged in destructive fishing ways, revealed that community organizing efforts started with the church's youth choir.

Mothers were persuaded to form a group. Their tasks included taking charge of the physical arrangements at the welcome area, cooking food for the tourists, and demonstrating how to fashion shellcraft products.

The men were the last to be organized as the "Paddlers' Group." They were assigned to guide the guests around the sanctuary.

> 'The best months to go are from September to November, when birds on southward migration make a 'stopover' to the island.'

Wong & Co.

FOR A "SMALL" restaurateur and T-shirt maker, Kim Wong's connections are surprisingly deep and far-reaching.

His tentacles apparently extend to Cebu City, which, according to Col. Victor Corpus, is a drop-off point in the multibillion-peso shabu trade and where Wong was recently seen playing golf and chatting with Chief Supt. Avelino Razon Jr., police regional director.

BREAKAWAY

Ivan P. Suansing

Their rendezvous at the Cebu Country Club in Barangay Banilad two Tuesdays ago came a day before the two were scheduled to attend a Senate hearing on the alleged criminal activities of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Wong, who reportedly signed the golf club logbook as "Kenneth Wong," has been tagged a member of a Hong Kong triad and Lacson's trading partner.

Razon joined him in the hearing as an alleged beneficiary of Wong's fabled generosity—a golf share worth P850,000 in the Mimosa Golf and Country Club.

Razon sees nothing wrong with his friendship with Wong "as the charges against the businessman have not been substantiated." But this isn't the same as seeing Wong during an inquiry into the latter's alleged drug links.

What urgent matter was there to be discussed that couldn't wait?

Aside from Razon, Wong's circle of friends in Cebu includes Senior Supt. Jose Antonio Salvacion, provincial police director, and Razon's top officers—Supt. Jonathan Miano and Supt. Josephus Angan—all at one time assigned to the Western Police District (WPD).

How did their friendship start?

Salvacion said Wong was a "benefactor" of the WPD since the businessman owns a garment factory and a seafood restaurant just adjacent to the police headquarters.

"Benefactor *siya namin. Nung minsan naalala ko na* (I remember that) we buy T-shirts from him at discounted prices. Then there were times when we dined at his restaurant," Salvacion said.

With all his buddies in town, Wong has found Cebu to his liking. This year alone, Wong has visited Cebu four times, playing and dining with top policemen, according to Razon.

Will business follow? And what business?

* * *

HOGWASH. "The public is fed up with the Senate inquiry on organized crime and now wants to see their senator at work" is the hogwash being sold by some senators who can't wait to end the hearings on Corpus' exposés.

Interest in the Senate inquiry remains undeniably high, however, judging by newspaper headlines, often a reliable yardstick of public appetite. The hunger for truth grows with each new shocking revelation.

The gravity of the charges, especially drug trafficking and money laundering, demands the senators' priority and attention. The evil of "narco-politics," a national security concern, can't be scoffed at.

Objections to the hearings are interposed by Blas Ople, Tessie Oreta and the rest of the clique that tried to suppress the second Jose Velarde envelope during the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

They have the gall to once again flaunt their legal prowess, especially with regard to the appreciation of evidence, to prevent the truth from coming out.

* * *

CLEVER TOM. With Press Freedom Week looming over the horizon, Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña recently lifted the ban on Sun*Star Cebu and radio station dyHP (Radio Mindanao Network), the two media outlets he had accused of keeping a political agenda.

No remorse came with the decision. The mayor said he would definitely re-impose the ban "during the election period," which could come anytime after the media celebration on Sept. 16-22.

Why the sudden change of heart?

The Cebu Press Freedom Week is that time of the year when the local media unite to give their enemies a good beating. Tom, a natural target before the lifting of the ban, is just being smart.

* * *

ACOUSTICS WAR. Fr. Cirilo Nacorda's revelations that top Army officers are in cahoots with the Abu Sayyaf have undermined the credibility of those tasked with smothering the bandits.

Suddenly, the public sees an "explanation" for the military's puzzling failure to crush the Abu Sayyaf after months of war room swagger, saber-rattling and pompous ultimatums. The President herself has run out of strong verbs and stronger threats, but the bandit group continues to operate with impunity.

The official excuse—unfamiliar terrain—may be accepted if made by Boy Scouts on their first field trip, but not from war specialists who also have access to high-tech monitoring gadgets.

EU helps in conservation efforts in Panay, Negros

BY HAZEL P. VILLA
Iloilo City

THE EUROPEAN Union (EU) has boosted its environmental conservation efforts in the Visayas by providing financial aid and designating German scientist Dr. Eberhand Curio as chair of the first EU Biodiversity project.

Curio, who heads the Philippine Endemic Species Conservation Project (PESCP) at the northwest Panay Peninsula, was named chair by the Asean Regional Center for Biodiversity Conservation (ARCBC) based in the University of the Philippines College in Los Baños, Laguna on July 25.

The EU-funded ARCBC is leading and administering conservation work in the nine member-countries of the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

Curio's new assignment means more funding and support for urgent conservation programs in Negros and Panay.

The EU is extending some P4.4 million in financial assistance to the Northwest Panay Peninsula Project over two years, according to Curio. The amount, he said, would be paid in tranches starting this year.

"The (designation of an) EU Biodiversity chair is a first in the country and, based on information I received from the UPLB, the first in the Asean," said Curio, who is also affiliated with the Ruhr University and the Frankfurt Zoological Society in Germany.

The Northwest Panay Peninsula is the last low-elevation forest in the Negros-Panay region. It has been described by conservationists as "a hot spot within a hot spot within a hot spot."

Among the threatened animal species endemic to the West-Central Visayas, most especially to the peninsula, are the Visayan Spotted Deer (*Cervus alfredi*), the Visayan warty pig (*Sus cebifrons*), the writhed-billed hornbill (*Aceros waldeni*) and the Negros Bleeding Heart Pigeon (*Gallicolumba keayi*).

Curio and other conservationists listed seven critically endangered and 10 endangered endemic bird species that have put the Philippines as No. 1 in the world in number of such species in 1999.

As EU Biodiversity project chair, Curio will supervise conservation-related research projects in the Northwest Panay Peninsula and in South Negros, which are financed by the ARCBC.

Curio, who has extensive experiences in zoological field work in the tropics, is also tasked with giving lectures in his specialties—behavioral ecology, conservation biology and Philippine wildlife biology at the UPLB and the Silliman University in Dumaguete City.

He will also help Silliman in its conservation work in southern Negros Oriental.

"The project is concerned with the effect of the fragmentation of forests in Negros on the faunal richness of selected herp (amphibians and reptile) groups," Curio said.

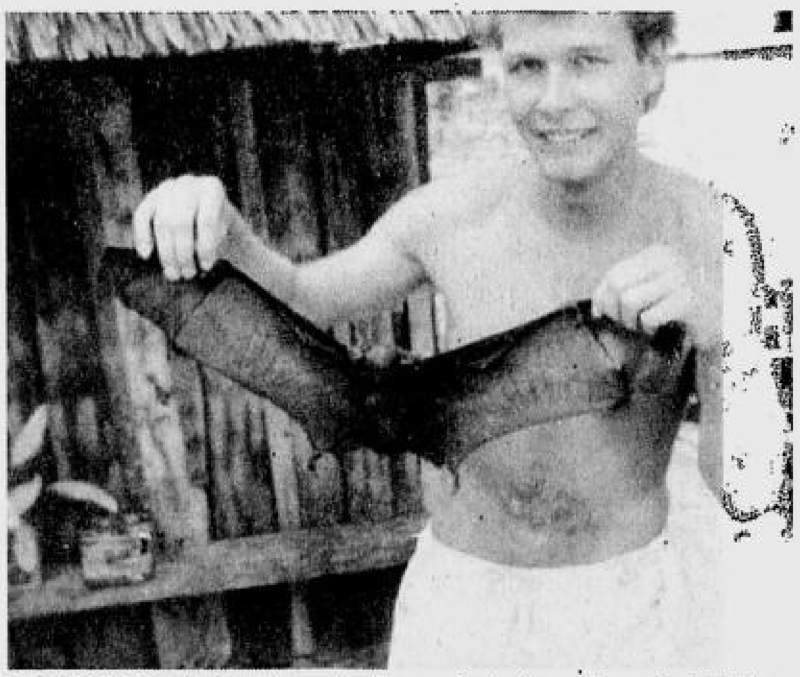
He said the EU-funded PESCP project, led by Dr. Sam Koffa of the UPLB, "is about agro-forestry directed at the sustainable use of natural resources in tandem with the conservation of the priceless and last low-elevation forest of Western Visayas."

In this project, Curio directs the conservation work of the PESCP and conducts research on the floral and faunal biodiversities of the limestone forest in the Northwest Panay Peninsula.

The area is also called "The Jewel of Panay." According to the PESCP primer, it was discovered by a team of Filipino and German biologists in 1996.

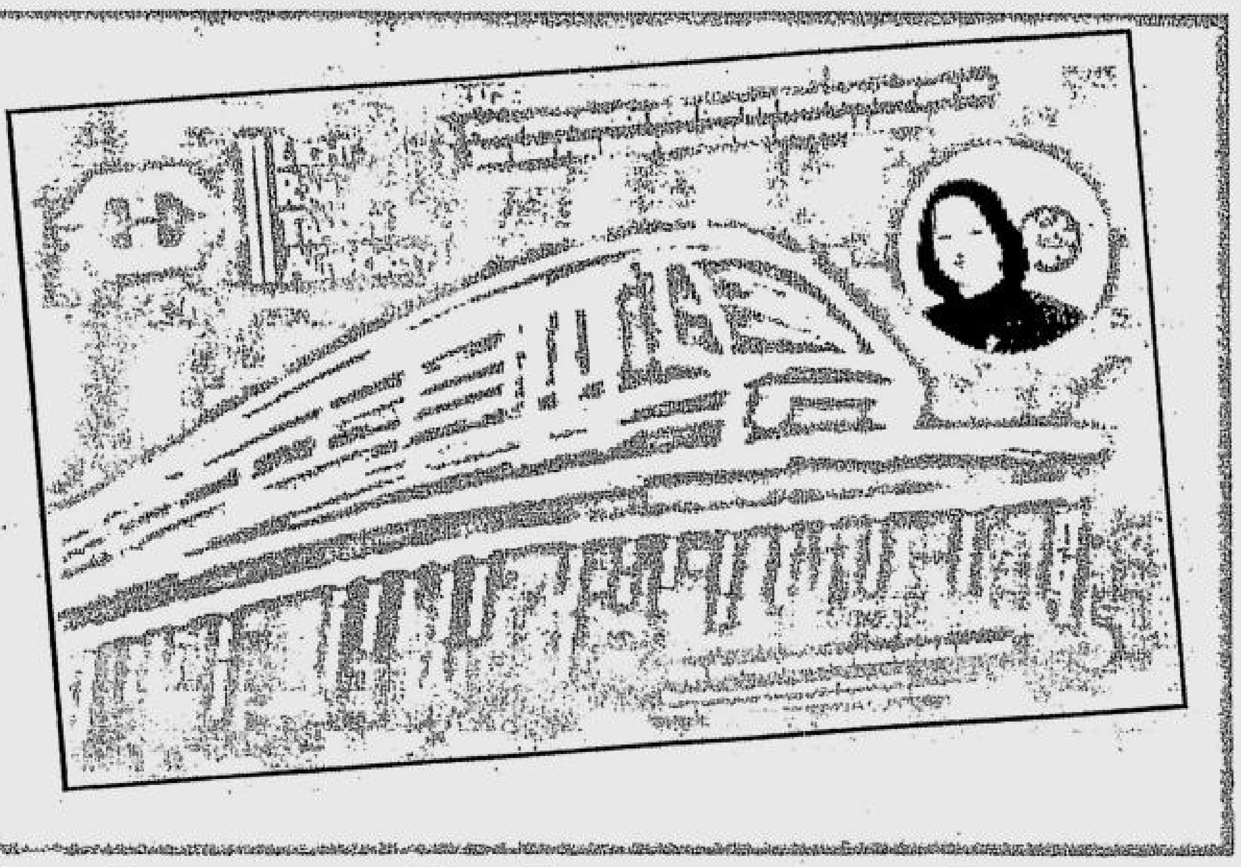
The team realized that the peninsula harbored "what could be considered the last relatively significant remnant of primary low-elevation forest in the whole of its biographic region."

"With its extensive experience in studying the Philippine rainforest biota (the combined flora and fauna of any geographical area), the PESCP is well-equipped to contribute to forest research within the EU project. The latter is supposed to run for two years," said Curio.



A SCIENTIST displays the wing span of a bat species called Golden-crowned Flying Fox, which is found on Boracay Island.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM OFFICE IN BORACAY



The AFC Ticket: More convenient, recyclable, and user-friendly.

LRT Line 1 launches AFC system today

THE Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA), owner of the light rail transit system plying the Monumento-Baclaran route, will implement starting tomorrow the Automated Fare Collection (AFC) System to replace the token-based and flat-fare collection system.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo may grace, together with some legislative, national and city officials including Department of Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon D. Alvarez and LRTA Administrator Teodoro B. Cruz Jr., the inaugural ceremonies slated this morning at the LRT Central Terminal on Arroceros St., Manila.

The AFC system will adopt plastic recyclable tickets used in similar mass transit systems throughout Asia. Besides being more convenient to the riding public, it will reduce incidence of fraud and ensure accurate monitoring of passenger origin-destination data and other relevant statistics throughout the line.There are two types of tickets to be used in the AFC system, namely: the Single Journey (SJ) and Stored Value (SV) tickets. The SJ ticket can be used only for one journey or trip of defined value. The SV ticket, on the other hand, allows several rides with varying lengths and travel, depending on the initial value stored in the card.

The AFC system is characterized as a closed system, compared to the token-based collection method which is semi-open. Passenger entry is automatically controlled through access gates, and exit is controlled using a ticket (plastic card with magnetic strip).

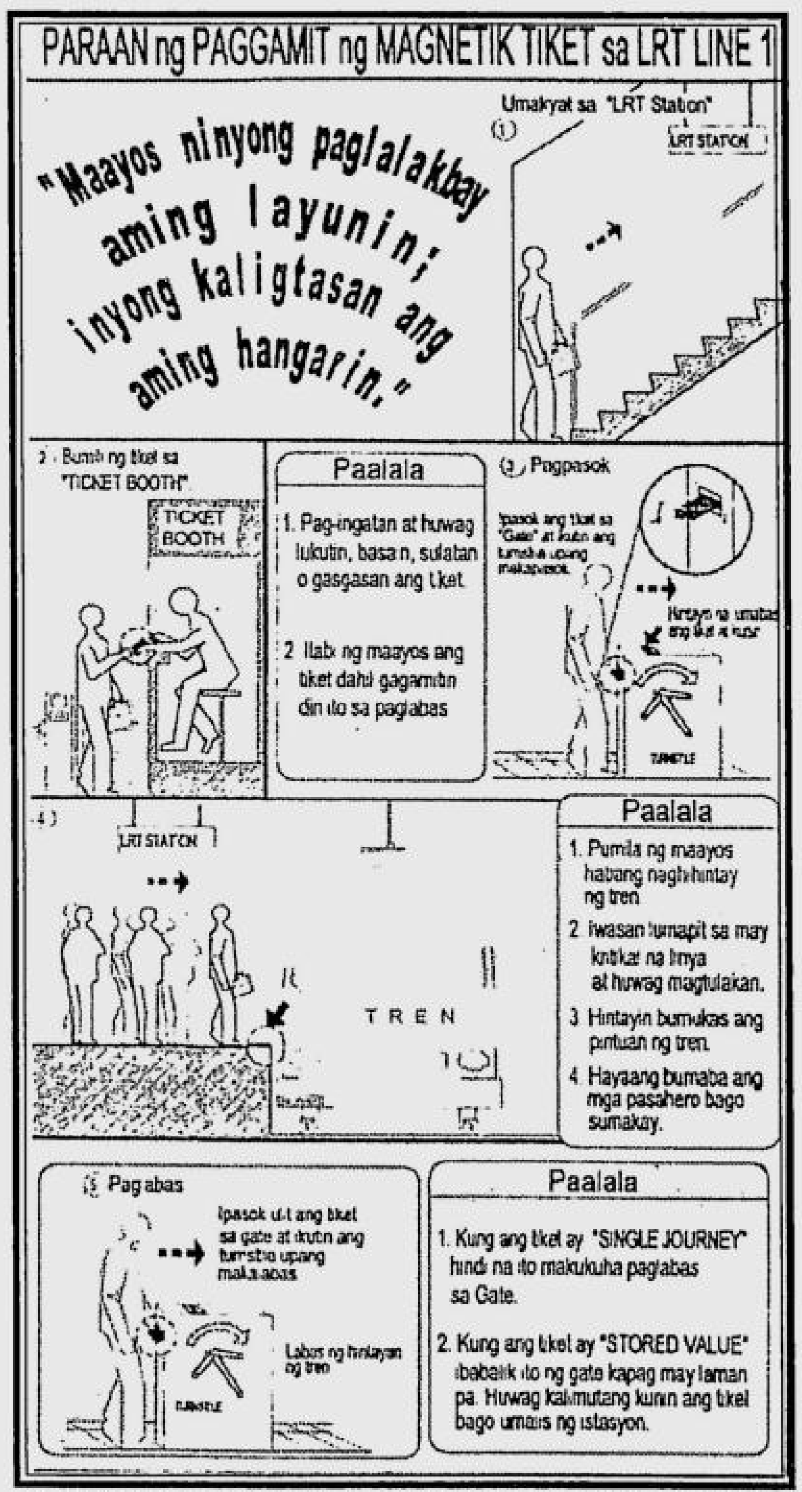
A closed system is designed for distance-related or zonal fare structure which allows for a minimum fare charged for the first few kilometers, say two or three. Additional fare is charged for each succeeding kilometer traveled. This variable fare structure will encourage short-distance riders to use the LRT since they will no longer be penalized as in the case of the token-based system. Long-distance riders will now pay for the cost of the service they use and no longer be subsidized. For facility, distance traveled will be linked to each station so that kilometer traveled is rounded off to the nearest whole number.

For an interim period, however, the existing fare structure of LRT Line 1 will be adopted in line with President Arroyo's directive not to increase LRT fares during these trying times.

The new system makes use of most of the existing physical infrastructure of the LRT with some upgrading involved. Among the facilities upgraded were the token-vending booths to make them adaptable to the new system. Entry and exit gates have also been replaced to accommodate this technology.

Some of the features of the AFC system include computerized daily accounting; closed control of the cash handling and fare media stock in use; automatic reconciliation between the cash collected and the tickets sold; support to maintenance activities (alarms display, events reporting); and issuing of accurate passenger statistics in order to optimize the rolling stock fleet scheduling.

The AFC system is also handy and convenient, user- and environment-friendly, tamper-proof with high throughput, and today's most widely used fare medium. It will generate additional income through advertisement offers, since the magnetic ticket is a proven and effective medium to disseminate vital and important information to the public as well as reach potential consumer markets using attractive advertising programs.


PARAAN ng PAGGAMIT ng MAGNETIK TIKET sa LRT LINE 1
"Maayos ninyong paglalakbay aming layunin; inyong kaligtasan ang aming hangarin."
Umakyat sa "LRT Station"
(1)
LRT STATION
2. Bumili ng tiket sa "TICKET BOOTH"
TICKET BOOTH
Paalala
1. Pag-ingatan at huwag lukutin, basain, sulatan o gasgasan ang tiket
2. Itabi ng maayos ang tiket dahil gagamitin din ito sa paglabas
(3) Pagpasok
Ipasok ang tiket sa "Gate" at itulak ang turnstile upang makapasok
Hintayin na umabas ang tiket at kunin
TURNSTILE
4)
LRT STATION
TREN
Paalala
1. Pumila ng maayos habang naghihintay ng tren
2. Iwasan tumapit sa may kntikat na linya at huwag magtulakan.
3. Hintayin bumukas ang pintuan ng tren.
4. Hayaang bumaba ang mga pasahero bago sumakay.
(5) Pagbabas
Ipasok ulit ang tiket sa gate at itulak ang turnstile upang makalabas
Labas ng hintayan ng tren
TURNSTILE
Paalala
1. Kung ang tiket ay "SINGLE JOURNEY" hindi na ito makukuha paglabas sa Gate.
2. Kung ang tiket ay "STORED VALUE" ibabalik ito ng gate kapag may laman pa. Huwag kalimutang kunin ang tiket bago umalis ng istasyon.

According to DOTC Secretary Pantaleon D. Alvarez, the new technology will basically change the way passengers get into and out of LRT stations and terminals. The LRTA hopes that the change will draw more people into patronizing the LRT, which is tagged as the better alternative to buses, jeepneys and taxicabs.

"With the new system, LRTA will be able to realize the fulfillment of its long-standing commitment to the riding public to continuously improve its services through better facilities. We therefore expect the passengers' level of satisfaction to increase with the adoption of the AFC system," says Administrator Teodoro B. Cruz, Jr.

As part of LRTA's campaign to promote the new system, penalties for certain passengers violations will be waived during the first month of AFC implementation.

President Arroyo may grace the inaugural affair set at 10 this morning at the LRT Central Terminal in the City of Manila.

Messages

MALACANAN PALACE
Manila

I would like to convey my warmest greetings to the men and women of the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) as they begin to implement the Automated Fare Collection (AFC) System.

It is heartening to note that the LRTA will finally execute the AFC System for LRT Line 1. The shift from the token-based system into magnetic cards will revolutionize the way we deliver our services and the way we travel. The thousands of train riders who make use of the LRT Line 1 going to and from work will be provided with better services and added convenience because of the introduction of the new fare collection scheme.

Mass transit operations and authorities around the world are slowly recognizing the benefits of this modern fare collection technology. The LRT Line 1, being the first mass transit to operate in Metro Manila and in Southeast Asia, deserves the same recognition as other transit lines in terms of service and efficiency. It is then but proper and appropriate for the LRTA to install modern equipment and devices at the LRTA Line 1 and keep abreast with the latest trends and technologies in mass transit systems worldwide.

Today, as the LRTA inaugurates the AFC System, I take this opportunity to congratulate this agency for giving the welfare of our people utmost priority in the implementation of their programs and projects. I extol you to keep up the good work and persevere with your commitment of elevating the way of life of our countrymen.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

My congratulations to the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) for the completion of its Automated Fare Collection System (AFCS) Project.

As part of the LRTA's modernization program, the AFCS will replace the token-based fare system with plastic recyclable magnetic tickets as the fare medium. This new system will now put the Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line 1 at par with other LRT systems in Asia.

I congratulate the management and staff of the LRTA for this commendable undertaking. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) assures the LRTA of its continued support in this and its future endeavors.

I hope the LRTA would continue to explore every avenue possible to improve its services to its various stakeholders, specifically, to the commuting public.

Mabuhay!

ATTY. PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Secretary

Republic of the Philippines
LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The necessity to reduce passenger crowding at token booths during rush hours, the need to find a cashless alternative to the burden of physical handling of cash, and the potential for capturing valuable passenger demographics are factors that are driving the people to demand an intelligent, fast, secure, and flexible fare collection system for LRT Line 1.

With the introduction of the ticket-based fare collection system, the riding public can now enjoy the comfort and convenience of a fail-safe LRT system in the metropolis, at no added cost, meaning, no fare increase. The government on the other hand, benefits in terms of efficiency in revenue collection and fraud prevention. As for the organization, the adoption of this new system marks another significant step towards its efforts to provide a modernized mass rail transit network in Metro Manila.

I wish to extend my warm felicitations to the supporters and stakeholders of the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) with a renewed commitment to provide quality public transport as we inaugurate the Automated Fare Collection System (AFCS) today.

We, at LRTA, renew our commitment towards the provision of a more innovative, efficient and effective system in rail transport, consistent with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's mandate of good governance. We assure you that we will continue to streamline and upgrade our operations to give you the best. After all, your mobility is our business and your safety is our concern.

ATTY. TEODORO B. CRUZ, JR.
Administrator

Special thanks to:

TRANSPORT SOLUTION
Magnetic Ticket Supplier

Integrated fare collection for public transport
THALES e-TRANSACTIONS
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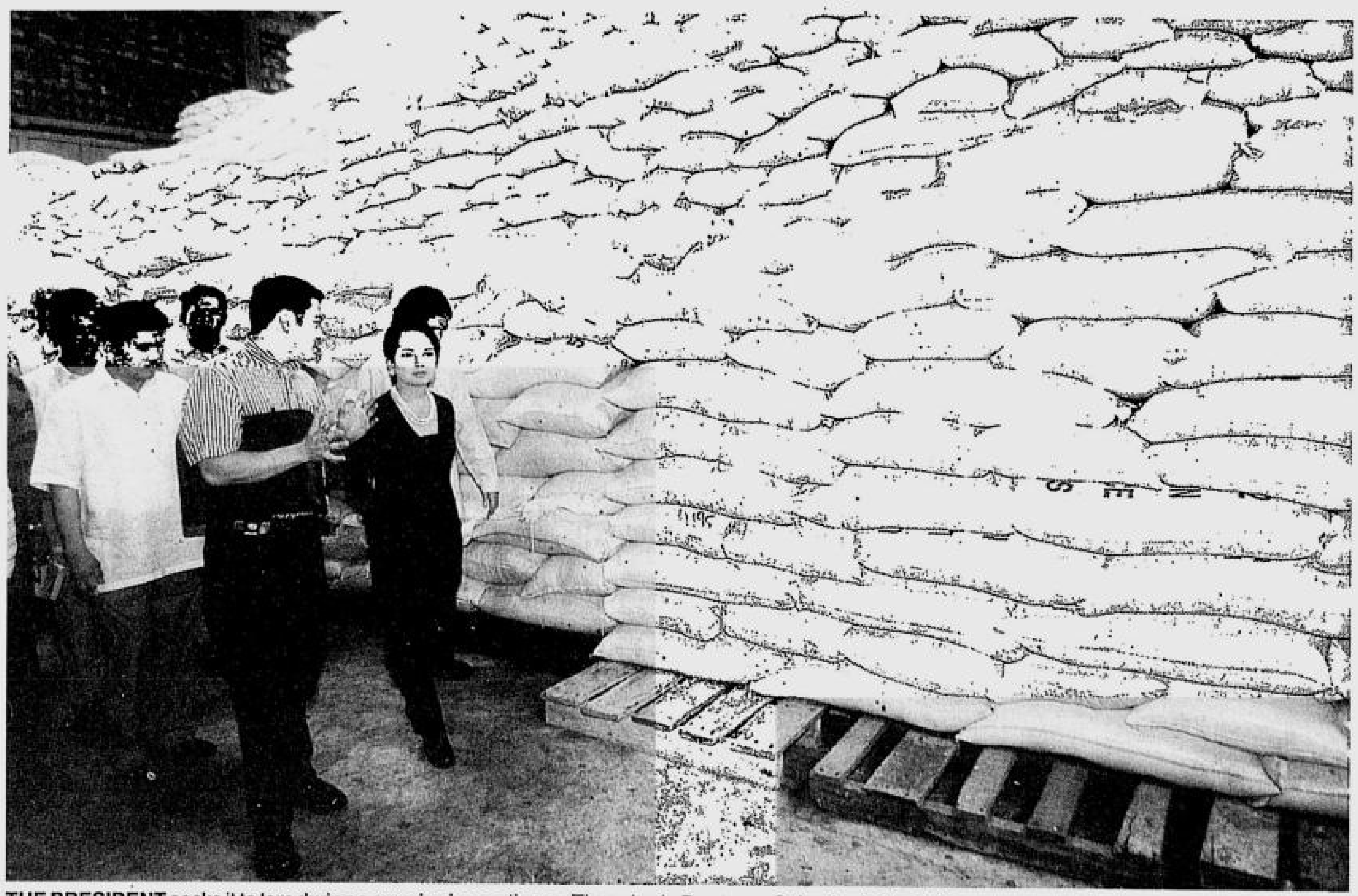
GENIALS TRADING & CONTRACTING COMPANY INC.

LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Your mobility is our business; your safety is our concern.



THE PRESIDENT socks it to 'em during a surprise inspection on Thursday in Barangay Calamias in Mabini, Batangas, where she found 1.2 million sacks of rice imported by the government stored in a private warehouse. NFA Administrator Anthony Abad tried to explain but ... MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Gloria's temper flares over 'wrong info' on rice

(From page A1)

still some 1.2 million sacks of rice in Farmex warehouse in Mabini, Batangas, allegedly owned by businessman Manny Tan, reportedly a close friend of former President Joseph Estrada.

It was the NFA that imported the rice worth P1.5 billion from the United States.

"It was staying too long in a private warehouse and it was beginning to rot," the President said.

"Why should a government importation be put in a private warehouse?" she asked.

The President pointed out that the government was paying for the storage fee and the fumigation of the rice in Tan's warehouse.

She directed Abad that the rice be immediately distributed to the 15 suppliers who had won the bidding.

The President said the suppliers should be the ones to worry about the storage of the imported rice. If their storehouses cannot accommodate the rice, then these should be stored at the NFA centers or in the government food terminal, according to Ms Macapagal.

Not fast enough

The President said that although 10,000 to 20,000 sacks of rice were being disposed of daily, she felt that this was "not fast enough."

"That's been going on for months. They should speed up the withdrawal," she said.

"They're taking their sweet time just because government is the one handling the storage, security, fumigation," referring to the 15 suppliers who had won the bidding.

In an earlier radio interview, Abad said that the storage of the rice in Tan's warehouse was not a serious problem.

"I was surprised she would be so concerned about it," he said over dzMM.

Abad said releasing the 1.2 million sacks of rice into the market too soon would cause rice prices to fall.

He said the absorption of the US rice in the market was slow because it was more expensive than the Thai or Vietnamese rice.

The President said government importation of rice should not be allowed in private ports to prevent smuggling.

"All the rice found in private ports is being seized. Charges are now being filed by the Bureau of Customs against the importers on record," she said.

Ms Macapagal said she had already instructed the National Anti-Crime Commission (NACC) to create a task force against rice smuggling to be headed by Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane.

The President said the NFA would only waive its right to import if there was a rice shortage.

Investigate

In the Senate, Sen. Manuel Villar called for a Senate investigation of the rice stored in Tan's warehouse.

"While millions of Filipinos are going hungry why does the NFA allow rice to rot in a private warehouse?" said Villar, chair of the agriculture and food committee.

Liberalization

At a rally in front of the US Embassy, the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) said the 1.2 million sacks of rice imported from the United States was a result of the government's liberalization policy.

KMP chair Rafael Mariano said that the Agreement on Agriculture and the World Trade Organization conditionalities were the main culprits in the $3.5-billion agricultural trade deficit that the country incurred from 1995 to 1999.

Five years ago, he said, agriculture accounted for 20.3 percent of the country's gross national product (GDP).

Now, its share of the GDP is down to less than 19 percent, resulting in the loss of 700,000 jobs.

An example of unfair competition was the case of the poor Filipino corn farmers who had to compete with mechanized farms in the United States that were receiving yearly subsidies.

Due to import liberalization, corn imports from 1993 to 1999 swelled by about 500 times, beef imports by almost four times, and pork 164 times, Mariano said.

"As poor countries like the Philippines are faced with a deluge of imported products, they are often giving priority to the production of export crops in a bid to offset the increasing trade deficit," he said. ***With reports from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez and Cynthia Balana***

Binay . . .

(From page A1)

sued publisher Vicente Tirol and correspondent Genivi V. Factao, who wrote an article titled "Alyas Erap Jr." in the tabloid's special edition dated April 15-21, 2001.

Tirol and Factao each posted P10,000 bail on Aug. 29. They are scheduled for arraignment on Sept. 12 before Judge Candido Villanueva of the Makati Regional Trial Court.

The article, which was written in Filipino, said the Binays allegedly overpriced equipment and services while serving at the Makati City Hall.

Quoting sources, it also said the high-profile couple supposedly amassed property consisting of a P40-million mansion at the Corinthian Gardens in Quezon City, houses in Tagaytay City and Bel-Air and San Antonio Villages in Makati, and two condominium units worth P28 million at the posh Rockwell Center, also in Makati.

But Factao yesterday told the INQUIRER that Ms Binay did not sue for libel on the basis of these allegations.

She took offense at the claim that the Binays' adopted daughter Joanne Marie Bianca, 13, bought panties worth a whopping P1,000 each, Factao said.

In the article, Factao reported these supposed expensive purchases quoting an unnamed public relations writer of Binay.

A press release faxed by Pinoy Times to the INQUIRER quoted Henry Salazar, Makati assistant city prosecutor, as saying that Joanne had denied the allegation.

Salazar said Joanne submitted a sworn statement declaring that she had always maintained "a simple and modest life" as it was how her parents had raised her.

Spoiled brat

Ms Binay said in her complaint-affidavit that while the article was "clearly aimed at scurrilously attacking" her husband, Factao portrayed Joanne as a "spoiled spendthrift brat . . . all with the object of destroying her reputation . . . before the bar of public opinion."

In their counter-affidavit, Factao and Tirol said there was nothing libelous in the article because it merely showed the "purported lifestyle of Mayor Binay's family member."

They added: "The single paragraph cited by the complainant should not be taken out of the context of the entire article."

Factao said the Binays focused on the issue of the underwear because they did not want to stir more fuss over their alleged hidden wealth.

"Through it, they can shame me without having their reported ill-gotten wealth scrutinized by the public," she said.

Harassment

However, Factao said that despite her having posted bail, at least 10 men in civilian clothes confronted her around 1 p.m. yesterday at a Makati court, supposedly to serve a warrant of arrest.

She said the men claimed to be members of the warrant section of the Makati police.

Factao said that when she told them she had already posted bail, they tried to confiscate her copy of the order indicating this.

She said the men claimed not to have been informed of the bail.

"I showed them the original copy of the order, but how come they wanted to confiscate it?" Factao said. "This is a clear case of harassment."

Basilan probe demoralizing . . .

(From page A1)

Magsaysay, who chairs the national defense committee, said he planned to invite to the Senate hearings ABS-CBN reporter Doris Bigornia; Capt. Ruben Guinolbay, a Scout Ranger; "and three other soldiers confined in the (Lamitan) District Hospital" at the height of the siege.

The senator's office announced that the committees were also awaiting an affidavit to be submitted by Gen. Romeo Dominguez, who was allegedly seen by at least one witness arrive on June 2 at the district hospital with four soldiers, one of them carrying a black attaché case.

Nurse Fe Castro said Thursday that the soldier carrying the attaché case opened it in front of her and revealed crisp P1,000 bills.

Magsaysay's office added that only after the committees had received the statements from the military officers would they make an evaluation and, eventually, their recommendations.

'Court martial'

Earlier yesterday, the Agence France Presse released a report quoting Magsaysay as saying he had found "strong evidence" that "there might be some collusion between some military officers and those involved in the kidnapping and possible ransom" of hostages.

"I am afraid we might even go for a court martial," the report also quoted the senator as saying.

But during the phone interview with the INQUIRER, Magsaysay issued an official statement saying the Senate investigation was not yet finished.

"Please qualify my statement. I would like to say that there are other facets that we have to look into," he said.

Shortly after the last joint hearing Thursday, Magsaysay became the object of an ambush interview where he was asked whether he was already convinced that there was collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf.

It was apparently during the Thursday interview that Magsaysay made his statement about finding "strong evidence" based on what had transpired in the hearings so far.

Asked by the INQUIRER to confirm whether he really made that statement, the senator was silent for a few seconds.

Later he said: "I think I said it myself."

The senator hastened to add his official statement about "looking into the other facets" of the alleged collusion.

"The investigation is not yet finished," he said.

It was Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, parish priest of Lamitan, who officially raised the accusation that the military had colluded with the Abu Sayyaf during the siege of Lamitan.

The siege resulted in the escape of the bandits along with hostages taken from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27 and fresh hostages from the Dr. Jose Torres Memorial Foundation hospital.

According to the results of the internal investigation conducted by military and defense officials, there was no collusion between the bandit group and the military despite the testimony of some witnesses, including Nacorda.

At Thursday's Senate hearing, the testimony of Lamitan residents indicated that three hostages—businessman Reghis Romero, his female companion Riza Santos and 9-year-old RJ Recio—did not escape but were allowed by their captors to go.

One witness said the money that changed hands amounted to P5 million.

House hearing

At yesterday's resumption of the inquiry by the House committee on national defense, civilian guide Jaime de la Cruz said at least two soldiers confirmed that they were pulled out of their positions behind the memorial hospital minutes before the bandits escaped with their captives.

De la Cruz is the civilian guide who helped deploy members of the Army's 55th Infantry Division and Scout Rangers at the back of the hospital in the afternoon of June 2.

"I heard them telling each other, 'Batch, standing order to pull out, briefing with the CO (commanding officer),'" De la Cruz said, quoting a soldier from the 55th ID.

He said he later asked a soldier from the 18th Infantry Battalion why they were being pulled out when there were still bandits inside the hospital.

To his question, he said, the soldier tersely answered: "Don't meddle. You are only a civilian. This is a job for soldiers."

De la Cruz testified that moments after the pullout, the bandits and their captives made their way out of the hospital through a small gate at the back wall.

"The sun was already going down. There was no gunfight," he said.

De la Cruz's testimony confirmed what Fr. Rene Enriquez, one of the hostages taken by the Abu Sayyaf from the nearby St. Peter's Parish Church, said: that they were taken out of the hospital without any challenge.

Enriquez said he and some other hostages were able to escape after the fleeing bandits met with gunfire from civilian vigilantes.

He said the firefight took place "70 to 80 meters" after they left the hospital.

"I was able to sneak away from my captors and I later found out that those who engaged the (bandits) in a firefight were civilians," he said.

Valenzuela Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo I, committee vice chair who presided over the hearing, said the testimony of De la Cruz and Enriquez "run consistent with that of the military—that there were no troops deployed in the area and that there was a pullout."

"My thinking is that no one would put himself within the firing distance of high-powered firearms, which could be the reason why the troops distanced themselves from the hospital," Gunigundo said. ***With a report from Rocky Nazareno***

Lacson's 'Chan report' authentic, says Campos

(From page A1)

Lacson wants Chan, who is now the Philippine military attaché in India, to be summoned to a Senate inquiry to explain his accusation. Chan led a joint military and police intelligence team that traveled to California in June to investigate Lacson on suspicion of money laundering. Ong was one of the six members of the team.

Lacson claims to have a copy of Chan's post-mission report that says that US customs agents who debriefed Ong found her to be a "witness without credibility."

Chan and other team members say that the real post-mission report contains no such statements about Ong.

Both documents, which the INQUIRER obtained, are nearly identical in content, apart from the portions on Ong and a section headed "Recommendations." The report that Chan says is authentic is marked "Secret"; Lacson's copy is not. Both are dated June 28, 2001.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said that he will ask both Lacson and Isafp chief Col. Victor Corpus to produce the two versions before investigating senators.

"I have a feeling that we are being screwed but I don't know who is screwing us and how we are being screwed," Biazon said, commenting on the withholding of documentary evidence in the Senate probe into Corpus' allegations linking Lacson to drug trafficking and money laundering.

"There are two opposing claims, so these have to be verified," Biazon told reporters, adding that the senators could choose to subpoena the documents.

"When the hearing resumes, I would like to ask Corpus to declassify Chan's report or, if Senator Lacson has an authenticated copy (of Chan's report), to provide this," Biazon said.

But Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon, one of the three committees investigating the allegations against Lacson, said it was not important whether US customs judged Ong credible or not.

"No matter what the Americans say, we (senators) are the ones judging her (Ong)," Arroyo said.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo reacted to another portion of the report that said she had approved the mission to the United States.

"Frankly, I don't remember approving it but I wouldn't disapprove of it either," she said in a press conference.

Friends in Isafp

In an interview with radio station dyLA in Cebu City, Campos, Ong's former handler and lover who has also been linked to drug trading, said "I don't think that the report was fabricated because it came from the Isafp. *Ako may nagkuha ato* (I was the one who secured the document)."

Asked how he was able to get the report, Campos, a Cebuano, replied: "*Syempre, daghan ko ug mga amigo, mga* classmates *didto* (Isafp) *pero* my classmate is not my source of that, *lain nga tawo* (I have a lot of friends and classmates at the Isafp. But my classmate is not the source of the document. I got it from somebody else)."

Campos also said he was thinking about resigning from the police service. "I will have to resign . . . (the charges are) very political. I am persecuted for a political crime, which I did not commit," he said.

'Lot of explaining'

In a statement, Lacson turned the tables on Chan, accusing him and Corpus of tampering with evidence. He said that the Isafp chief himself had admitted that Chan's report contained critical comments about Ong.

Corpus said earlier this week that he "did not release (the report) because I knew the report was biased because Chan wrote it after a big fight with Ong" in San Francisco.

However, Corpus also said that it seemed that the reports in his and in Lacson's possession were not the same ones.

Reacting to the Corpus' remarks, Lacson said: "Now, who is lying and fabricating documents, Colonel Chan? The admission just came from your superior's mouth. You and your boss have a lot of explaining to do in the coming hearings."

"Chan should coordinate with his boss Corpus so that they would not give conflicting statements. Their case, which is built on lies, is crumbling," the said.

He said that his accusers have two weeks to "concoct more tales and fabricate evidence" before Congress resumes session.

"I suggest they do it well because they have definitely failed miserably to come up with credible evidence to support their claims," he said.

Witness

On the offensive yesterday, the Lacson camp issued another statement claiming that Corpus and his men were trying to convince two drug traffickers to testify against the senator, one of whom was "a comrade of Corpus in the Communist Party of the Philippines."

The senator was referring to Phoebe Astudillo, who was arrested for drug trafficking shortly after the Edsa 1986 Revolution.

Lacson said she worked for the CPP/NPA's Abra-Benguet Command in the early '80s.

He said Phoebe, whose real surname is Lingbawan, is the mistress of a lawyer named Astudillo who worked with rebel priest Conrado Balweg.

Corpus had said that he was trying to get Astudillo as a witness because she had recruited another witness, Rebecca Agana, who testified that she sold drugs for the police while being detained in Camp Crame. ***With a report from Martin Marfil***

Mary Ong: HK cop helping Ping

(From page A1)

by fabricating records," Ong said.

Ong clarified that she was not saying that Abbott was involved in Lacson's alleged criminal activities.

"But I'm now beginning to question why Abbott is helping Lacson now," Ong said.

To back up her allegation that Abbott was actively supporting Lacson's group, Ong produced a facsimile copy of a police report in Hong Kong involving the kidnapping for ransom of a Chinese national by Lacson's men.

The report had a picture of Supt. John Campos, former subordinate of both Lacson and Acop, with Chinese markings made by a relative of kidnapped victim Chong Hiu Ming that the police officer was the one who negotiated for the ransom of Chong in Hong Kong.

Lacson and Acop's men, according to Ong, kidnapped Chong, a suspected member of the triad, in the country in May 1999.

Chong's family paid a ransom of P2.53 million but he was killed just the same, Ong said.

Acop said his men had no participation in the disappearance of Chong.

Finance officer

Acop said Ong might have been responsible for Chong's death as she was the one in possession of his passport and bank passbook.

"Chong Hiu Ming is a finance officer for the triad and Ong knew him," Acop said.

She said Lacson's group was using the same one-page report of the Hong Kong police in claiming that Ong supplied the triad a picture of Campos to guide triad hit squads.

"If they can only read Chinese, then they'll find out that the police officer mentioned there was with me when we negotiated ransom for a kidnapped victim," Ong said.

Ong said she served as Campos' interpreter when they negotiated the ransom.

Based on Ong's previous narration, it was Lacson who introduced her to Abbott in the early 1990s.

Ong was linked up to Lacson as an agent by a certain Alfred Lim, who himself is now being described as an alleged drug lord.

Abbott took in Ong as an undercover agent for the then Hong Kong Royal Police.

It was Abbott who later endorsed Ong to Campos as a potential narcotics agent for the PNP in 1996.

Campos became her "handler" and eventually her lover and live-in partner.

NBI bares harassment of Lacson probers

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday accused members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) of orchestrating an "elaborate" plot to "harass, intimidate and discredit" witnesses and government officials investigating Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Wycoco said the PAOCTF had hatched a "massive black propaganda" campaign to discredit him, military intelligence chief Victor Corpus and former PAOCTF informer Mary Ong.

He told reporters during his regular weekly press briefing yesterday that the plan includes "is a well-rehearsed script maligning and maliciously imputing false accusations" against them by trained witnesses.

He said a certain Jesuit priest from Ateneo de Manila University would soon come out to corroborate his claims.

Ong herself had been receiving death threats, he said.

Special teams from the NBI, police and military are now conducting preemptive operations to counter the "squid tactics," he said.

Wycoco said two prosecutors at the Department of Justice (DOJ) and an NBI senior official had been subjected to harassment and threatened with bodily harm by Lacson's protégés and former subordinates at the PAOCTF.

All three are investigating the Nov. 24 murder of public relations man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Manuel Corbito, the 1995 Kuratong Baleleng case and the alleged money-laundering activities of Lacson.

Police Supt. Glenn Dumlao, a PAOCTF ex-official, had implicated Lacson in the Dacer case. As chief of the PNP, Lacson headed the PAOCTF in a concurrent capacity.

Wycoco did not identify the three officials for security reasons.

But DOJ officials said one of the three is DOJ prosecution attorney Juan Navera.

Navera, however, said he was not bothered by the harassment. "I will continue to do my job," he said.

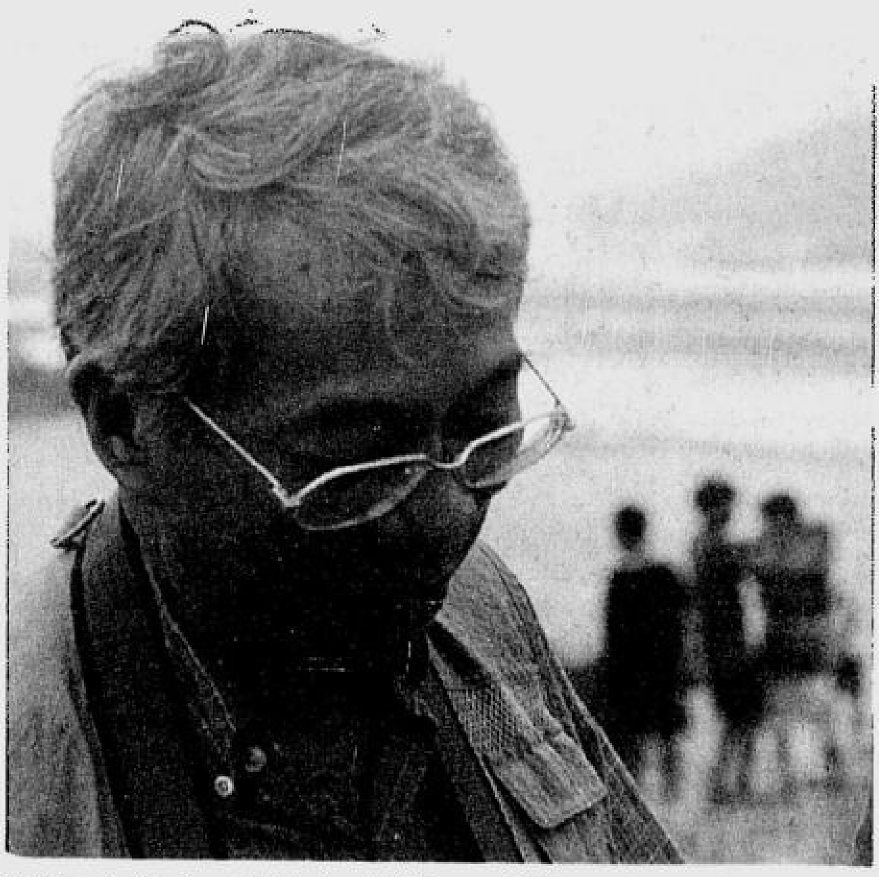
Wycoco said the DOJ prosecutors were being harassed through surveillance and phone calls, while unidentified men broke into the house of the senior NBI official about two weeks ago.

"We thought it was just a usual break-in case. But two days later, an unidentified man called up a priest from Ateneo saying it was part of the harassment of the NBI officer.

The caller also threatened harm to the law enforcers' family "should we push through with prosecuting suspects in the Dacer-Corbito case," Wycoco said.

"The caller told him (the priest) that it will serve as a warning to the NBI officer . . . and that they know when and how to get his children," Wycoco said.

He said the harassment and break-in could be the handiwork of highly trained men "commissioned by suspects in the Dacer-Corbito case."



MAN on the (hot) spot, Phivolcs chief Raymundo Punongbayan, takes questions from the media. RANDY HORMILLOSA

THE WAITING game. Aeta evacuees wait for the Phivolcs order to return to their homes in Botolan. RANDY HORMILLOSA

ILLEGAL DETENTION

Ani dismisses Ador's case vs senators

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

SAYING his office has no jurisdiction to investigate the case, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto yesterday dismissed the complaint for illegal detention lodged by ex-civilian agent Angelo "Ador" Mawanay against eight senators.

In a press conference, Desierto said there might be "procedural lapses" on the part of the Senate in ordering the detention of Mawanay.

But such act, he said, "if at all actionable, would merely constitute an administrative offense over which the Office of the Ombudsman has no jurisdiction to investigate."

Desierto explained that only the Senate, through its ethics committee, could hear cases involving administrative infractions of its members.

Desierto clarified that he was not clearing Senators Robert Barbers, Aquilino Pimentel, Loren Legarda, Rodolfo Biazon, Tessie Oreta, Robert Jaworski, Noli de Castro and John Osmeña of any liability in connection with Mawanay's brief incarceration at the Senate.

He said the matter would be best handled by the Senate leadership.

"The act complained of (by Mawanay) was made in the exercise of the inherent power of the Senate as an independent institution," said Desierto, as he ordered his officials to refer the case to the Senate "for whatever action the latter may deem appropriate to take under the circumstances."

With this finding, Desierto said his office did not delve into the merits of Mawanay's complaint anymore.

With respect to the criminal liabilities of the eight senators, which the Ombudsman can investigate, Desierto said: "While there may be flaws in the exercise of the power as pointed out by the complainant in the complaint, the same may be reasonably deemed to be errors of judgment in the performance of their functions. Per se under this context, the act may not be criminal as intent is lacking."

He added that there was no indication that the act was attended by bad faith.

"In light of the foregoing, while the charge is for arbitrary detention under the Revised Penal Code, this Office need not assume jurisdiction over the subject complaint as the allegations in the said complaint may not be actually criminal but may only be administrative."

Even the Ombudsman Fact-Finding and Research Bureau, which determined the jurisdictional issue and the merits of the complaint, found that there was no sufficient grounds to initiate investigative action on any criminal offense.

Mawanay, through his lawyer, filed the complaint for alleged arbitrary (illegal) detention with the Ombudsman's Office on Aug. 20.

Mawanay filed the complaint hours before he was released by the Senate into the custody of military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus on Aug. 20. He was ordered detained on Aug. 17.

He, however, did not withdraw the complaint, prompting Desierto to order his officials to continue evaluating the complaint-affidavit.

Desierto said his officials were tasked to ascertain the "legality" and "propriety" of the complaint, and establish whether his office had jurisdiction over the case.

In his three-page affidavit-complaint, Mawanay has asked Desierto to place the eight senators under investigation for allegedly unlawfully detaining him.

Mawanay said the senators were guilty of illegal detention since he was detained even though a citation for contempt was not issued to him by the Senate.

Mawanay further claimed that the Senate had no legal grounds to detain him.

According to Mawanay, he could be cited in contempt only if he disobeys an order of the Senate, refuses to testify, or testifies falsely.

He maintained that he did not lie during the Aug. 17 Senate hearing jointly conducted by the blue ribbon, public safety and defense committees.

Mawanay had claimed that Legarda bought 1,000 smuggled cellular phones from him in 1998 worth P8.9 million. Legarda, however, flatly denied the charges and dared the ex-civilian agent to substantiate his charges.

This prompted the Senate to place Mawanay under Senate custody until he could produce evidence to back his claim.

Rosebud bares bribe try

(From page A1)

she first made her allegations public.

She said the offer was raised to P4 million a few days later and the draft was slightly modified to ensure that Acop would get off scot-free.

"I again refused to sign the affidavit," Ong said, holding up what she said was the second sworn statement.

"This is not a simple case of money," she said. "If I had wanted money from them, then I would have taken it before."

Jewelry, painting

She also produced a receipt apparently showing that on Nov. 27, 2000, a few days after she came out with her accusations, Acop and his men paid her P510,000.

She said Acop owed her the money for jewelry and a painting.

The names on the receipt were Superintendents Cesar Aquino and Avelino Abogado, whom Ong identified as Acop's men.

Acop, however, said that the two were Campos' subordinates.

The police general said that he redeemed Ong's jewelry, including a Rolex watch, which were in hock, and paid her in cash for these items later on.

"There are receipts that will support these transactions," he said.

Fatal attraction?

Acop also claimed that Ong wanted to do in Campos when their affair turned sour.

Campos initially denied having an affair with Ong but later admitted having slept with her after she threatened to produce photographs and a videotape proving that they were intimately involved.

Before her press briefing, Ong conferred with lawyers of the Philippine National Police inside Camp Aguinaldo to discuss filing administrative charges against Acop, Campos, Senior Supt. Francisco Villaroman and other officers whom she has accused of various crimes.

Ong said the National Police Commission also sent representatives to the conference.

"I am so happy that the PNP is now moving the internal affairs cases against these officers," she said.

'Never, never love your agent'

(From page A1)

to determine when to "terminate" the agent, that is, to cut off the agent from a project when it has reached a particular stage.

"That is why when you fall in love with an agent, it becomes difficult to 'terminate' him or her," Aparri said.

He conceded that in extreme cases, like when agents commit serious acts of betrayal, to 'terminate' means physical elimination.

How can a handler test the trustworthiness of an agent?

There are a number of ways, according to Aparri.

He said the handler initially sends the agent out on a "test mission" to perform a minor task. "If he or she delivers, then it's a plus," he said.

Another basic step is a thorough background check on the individual to determine his or her connections.

When the agent is employed in an "oplan" (operation plan), he or she signs a "contract" specifying his or her mission and the corresponding payment for services.

An agent is periodically guided in his or her work through what is called the EEI, provided by the handler. "EEI stands for 'essential elements of information' which define the scope and nature of information which he or she pursues at a given time," Aparri said.

Debriefing

Handler and agent also agree to hold periodic debriefings, during which the latter reports on all of the intelligence information gathered in the course of an operation.

"It must be pointed out that handlers usually start a project with initial information gathered from 'open' sources, ranging from what is available in the media to even coffee shop talk, and the agent is required to pry into 'closed' information," Aparri said.

It is a routine practice during debriefings for an agent to present documentary evidence, called "hard copy," to back the verbal information.

Aparri said the handler files written reports of debriefings, and refers to these in succeeding sessions with the agent in order to determine the reports' consistency.

A handler may employ a secondary or third agent to conduct a "parallel" operation to cross-check the primary agent's information.

"The first, second and third agents do not know each other nor are they aware of each other's missions," Aparri said.

"The second or third agent may even report to the handler that your primary agent is an enemy," he said.

An officer who didn't want his name used said a handler may even arrange for other parties to deliberately feed wrong information to the agent to test him or her.

Know what agent knows

"Remember, the object of a debriefing is know what the agent personally knows. If he or she were secure in his or her knowledge about something, then he or she would even contest the source who could be feeding information that he or she has not verified," the officer said.

He added that if an agent reports the same wrong information to the handler as though it were his or her own, it doesn't automatically mean that the agent is unreliable.

"What if the agent suspected that he or she is being taken for a ride and decides to go along with it? What if the agent was wily enough to discover the ruse and he puts one over his handler and the latter's contact?" the officer said.

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Mike exhorts RP bets 'to give all'

ARROYO

KUALA LUMPUR—First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason spent the whole day yesterday meeting the athletes in practice venues, exhorting them to give their all for the country's glory in the 21st Southeast Asian Games here.

Arroyo, here to boost the morale of the more than 300 SEAG bets, started the day conferring with the rowing, taékwondo and volleyball teams at the PSC Secretariat at the Crown Princess Hotel.

He then proceeded to the DBKL basketball stadium with Tuason and Commissioners Richie Garcia and Cynthia Carrion where the controversial national basketball team had its first official practice session.

Tuason said that Arroyo's presence came quite as a surprise for the coming cage wars.

"I think that considering all the troubles the team had been into, just to see the First Gentleman in the bench should give them all the reason to work hard for a gold medal the Philippines deserves," said Tuason.

Not until a Fiba ruling lifted a suspension on the BAP last Sunday, the participation of the squad bannered by standouts of the MBA league was ensured.

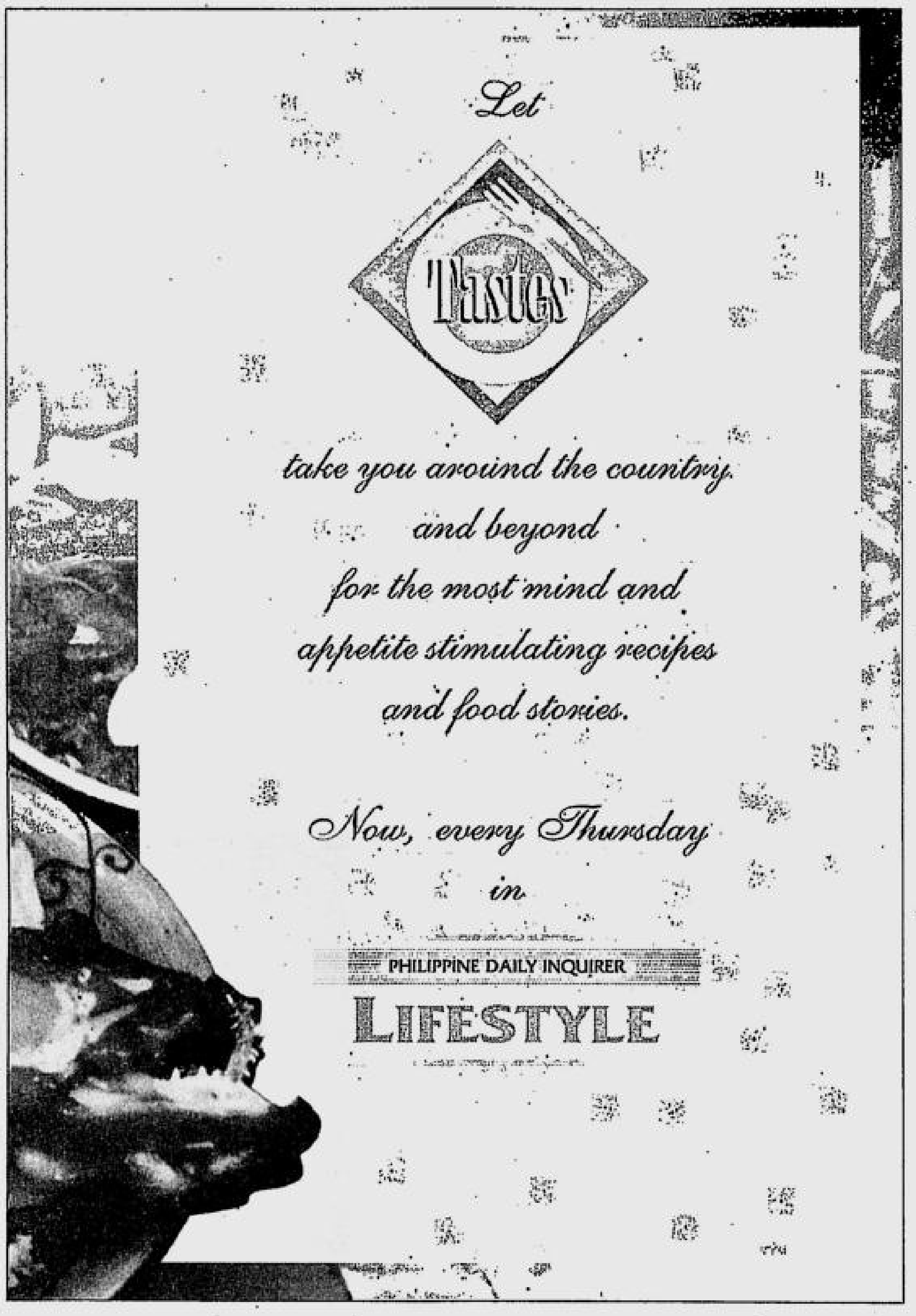
Arroyo's schedule with the national contingent stretched all the way until dinner, which he hosted for athletes and officials at the Crown Princess Hotel.

The dinner was also to serve as a pep talk for the delegation, which will fight for the gold medals in 30 events to be played in three different states of Malaysia. Aside from the capital city of Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Johor Bahru will also host the other sports.

PHILIPPINES

THE PHILIPPINES' chef d' mission Freddie Jalasco (center) leads officials and athletes in singing the Philippine national anthem as the RP flag is being hoisted by a Malaysian cadet on the eve of the SEA Games blastoff in Kuala Lumpur.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO



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Thais RP '5' rivals

IT'S not only Thailand and Malaysia which the Philippines has to worry about in its defense of the Southeast Asian Games men's basketball crown. If scouting reports are true, Singapore should also contend for the title.

The Singaporeans reportedly have four to six naturalized Chinese shooters in the team and could be the surprise package of the tournament which starts today in Kuala Lumpur.

Basketball Association of the Philippines treasurer Christian Tan bared this information yesterday during the weekly Sports Communicators Organization of the Philippines forum at Kamayan West Avenue.

"It won't be easy (title defense) but I know the boys will push through. Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore should be our main rivals," said Tan, who also foresees problems in officiating.

Tan also urged basketball officials to join the unification process toward a brand-new start for the upliftment of Philippine basketball.

"What we're looking at is a basketball summit with the PBA, MBA, PBL and the collegiate leagues," said Tan. Then we can create a committee to identify the different roles they'll play in international competitions."

SEA Games on

(From page A20)

authoring surprises.

Filipino sports officials sounded confident that the country would harvest at least 40 golds and climb to fourth place.

Malaysia is looking at a bountiful harvest of 80 golds, same with Thailand and Indonesia; which eyes a return to the top in spite of getting hammered by political and economic crisis.

Taekwondo gave the country four golds in Brunei, the same haul it garnered during the 1997 Jakarta Games.

Wushu, which is going to be held in Penang, has already given the country a total of 22 golds in three SEAG, while judo contributed nine since the 1991 event in Manila where the Philippines scooped 91 golds before sliding to mediocrity in the succeeding Games.

Prospects are also bright in billiards and snooker with Efren "Bata" Reyes at the forefront of the Philippine campaign. Gymnastics, boxing, cycling, bowling and shooting should be able to contribute to the Philippines' cause.

Malaysian King Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di Pertuan Agong will officially declare the Games open. Also expected to grace the opening ceremonies was Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed.

Yesterday morning, Jalasco attended the flag-raising ceremony for the participants at the Keris Square inside the sprawling National Stadium.

A lavish presentation titled "Human Formation" participated in by 1,400 dancers will be the highlight of the inaugural rites.

Aside from Kuala Lumpur, which boasts of the world's tallest building–the 88-story Petronas twin Towers–the Games will also be held in Johor Baru, Negeri Sembilan, Selangor and Penang.

Zamar fears dirty tactics

KUALA LUMPUR—Have the dirty tactics against the Philippine men's basketball team begun?

Head coach Boyzie Zamar certainly thinks so after he and his charges, hot favorites to retain the SEA Games basketball crown, were literally taken for a ride from the airport to the RP contingent's hotel late Thursday night.

"Expected *na 'yan.* After all, Malaysia is also keen on winning the basketball title," said Zamar a day after his team checked into the Crown Princess Hotel past midnight after a three-hour ride from the KL International Airport that usually takes only an hour.

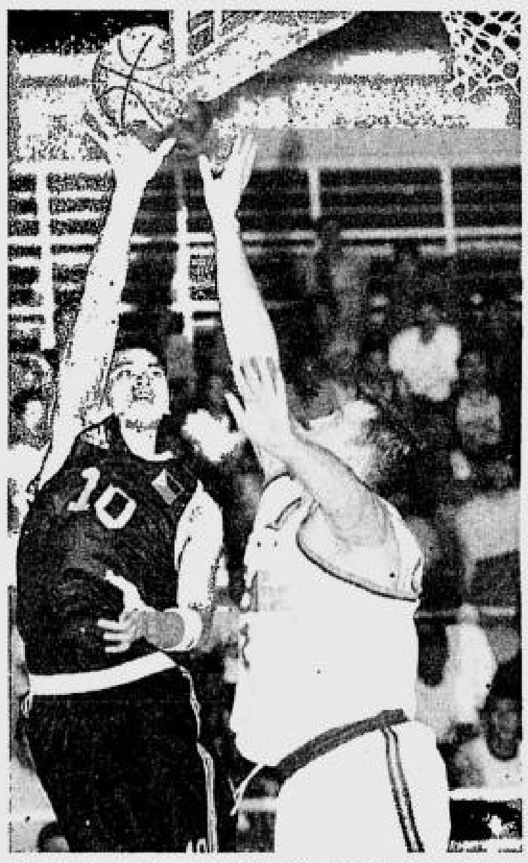
"*Siguro nga, talagang niligaw kami dahil, siyempre, alam naman nuong* driver *kung saan ang* hotel *namin. At saka ang bagal,*" said RP team skipper Romel Adducul.

Zamar was so angry about the delay that he confronted Adrian Chua, the Malaysian transport chief assigned to the RP delegation, shouting at each other at the hotel lobby soon after the squad arrived.

"All I wanted was to have our liaison officer replaced after we arrived late and he (Chua) apparently took it as an insult," Zamar said.

Another move that the Malaysian organizers appeared bent on disrupting the RP cagers, Zamar said, was the sudden switching of the team's training schedule with that of the women's squad.

"We are supposed to train at 11 a.m. Friday but we were informed belatedly that it has been reset to 12 noon. We insisted on the original schedule," he said.



ROMY HOMILLADA

ROMEL Adducul (left) of the Philippine Team puts up a one-hander off Jeffrey Flowers of the MBA Selection during their exhibition game Wednesday. The Nationals won, 96-90.

Match for the Ages

NEW YORK — If the late Jimmy Van Alen hadn't invented the tiebreaker in the 1960s, Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi might still be playing.

Without the revolutionary scoring system, the longtime rivals would have been tied 24-all in the opening set 3-1/2 hours into their US Open showdown early Thursday morning.

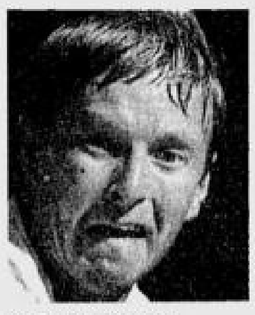
Instead, by taking three of four tiebreakers, Sampras won the quarterfinal epic 6-7 (7), 7-6 (2), 7-6 (2), 7-6 (5).

The match between the aged was a match for the ages, with all the necessary ingredients to make it memorable: a sellout crowd, the New York stage in prime time and the sport's most beloved elder statesmen rising to the occasion through four sets that couldn't have been closer. Neither player broke serve, meaning the set score was tied 24 times.

A spellbound crowd of 23,033 filled Arthur Ashe Stadium, and USA Network's telecast drew the largest audience in cable history for a tennis event—3.4 million homes. Agassi, 31, and Sampras, 30, agreed their 32nd meeting ranked among the most memorable.

"It all kind of lived up to the hype," Sampras said. "When we clash and we're both playing well, I think it's some of the best tennis in the game."

Kafelnikov makes semis



KAFELNIKOV

NEW YORK —Yevgeny Kafelnikov allowed the No. 1 seed Gustavo Kuerten just seven games in their US Open quarterfinal match Thursday, routing the Brazilian 6-4, 6-0, 6-3 in 92 minutes.

The No. 7-seeded Russian will play the winner of a later match between fourth-seeded Lleyton Hewitt of Australia and 18th-seeded Andy Roddick of the United States for a berth in Sunday's final.

Third seed Marat Safin of Russia, the defending champion, plays Pete Sampras, the 10th seed from the United States, in the other semifinal Saturday.

Kafelnikov, seeded seventh, pulled off 28 winners in what was one of the most lopsided victories of the tournament so far.

Venus vs Jennifer

NEW YORK—The winner of Friday's showdown between Jennifer Capriati and Venus Williams can rightly claim to be the best women's player this year. The luck of the draw assigned the No. 2-seeded Capriati and No. 4 Williams to the same side, meaning they must meet in the semifinals. The other pairing Friday had No. 1 Martina Hingis against No. 10 Serena Williams. *AP*

7-Stag derby starts Tuesday

THE SEARCH for "Ucap Stagfighter of the Year 2001," blasts off on Tuesday and Thursday (Sept. 11 and 13) via the "1st UCAP/BJ Greenwood 7-Stag Derby" at Mandaluyong Coliseum.

To be hosted by Ucap president Butch Macasaet and Joey delos Santos, the derby is sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

This event is the first of seven Ucap stagfests that serve as basis in selecting the winner of the "Stagfighter of the Year" award.

Only those stags wingbanded by Pagba, Migba, Ucap, GF-BAN and NGBA are accepted to join. Unlike other stag derbies, all stags that will be fought in the seven Ucap stagfests were banded when they were still two to three months old. The wingbanding was done during the months of February and March only.

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Race 3—1. Turbo Carera 2. Come In Glory 3. Full Blast/Privately Owned 4.No Regrets 5. Early Warning
Race 4—1. Senor Perlor 2. High Typhoon 3. D Contractor 4. King Size 5. C'est Magnifique
Race 5—1. Art of Rose 2. All Grace 3. Alexander 4. Cue Artist
Race 6—1. Signal Mountain 2. Nakagayak 3. Rosa Valentina 4. Diva 5. Flashy & Bold
Race 7—1. Gemstone 2. Hazme Lady 3. Agree to Agree
Race 8—1. Clear Sky 2. Cubano 3. Bull Strike 4. Hemisphere 5. Smart Kevin
Race 9—1. All Powerful 2. Maginoo's Pride 3. Jinky
Race 10—1. King Aldrin 2. Bohemyo 3. Lucky El 4. Puzzling Friend 5. Red Hahn 6. Contra Barata
Race 11—1. Talk to Patsy 2. Uzisaki 3. Race for Gold 4. Timeless Beauty 5. Swinger
Race 12—1. Courage 2. Andee's Joy 3. Main Street 4. Ginger Baker 5. Wendy's Pride
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PBA Governors Cup on today

GAMES TODAY *(Ynares Center)*
3:40 p.m. – Sta. Lucia vs Swift
5:45 p.m. – Purefoods vs Alaska

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PUREFOODS takes on the underdog role when it battles Alaska Milk even as Sta. Lucia Realty encounters Swift in the PBA Governors Cup openers at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City today.

Purefoods coach Eric Altamirano said the Hotdogs would miss their big men, EJ Feihl and Andy Seigle, in their 5:45 p.m. tussle against the Aces, who will come out with an intact lineup.

Feihl sprained his ankle during a recent tune-up game with Barangay Ginebra, while Seigle remains a doubtful starter because his foot injury hasn't completely healed yet, according to Altamirano.

Nonetheless, Altamirano said they are banking on the return of Derrick Brown, the all-around reinforcement, who last year won the best import award.

"The atmosphere is still upbeat because Derrick is around," said Altamirano. "But we know that we are facing a tough task ahead. That is, to take our game to the next level."

Purefoods made the final in this conference last year before bowing to San Miguel, 4-1.

The Hotdogs beat the odds by making the Final Four during the recent Commissioner's Cup despite injuries to their players and the threat of impending disbandment.

"We have outgrown those issues already and that makes us stronger," said Altamirano, who re-activated Dino Manuel to fill up the slot of Feihl. He promised to use Seigle but only for a few minutes.

"Next to EJ and Andy, our tallest guys are Richard Yee and Jolly Escobar," said Altamirano referring to his forwards who stand only 6-foot-4.

Meanwhile, the Aces are bringing back Sean Chambers, who steered them to the Final Four during the previous conference.

Of the four teams debuting today, only Swift (formerly Pop Cola) will parade a new import in 6-foot-2 Rossel Ellis, whose credentials include stints with the Detroit Pistons in the NBA and Chicago Skyliners in the American Basketball Association.

The Panthers will square off with the Realtors, who will be backed up by Damien Owens, who played for a few games for Sta. Lucia because the franchise got eliminated early on.

FEU, UST clash for crucial slot

GAMES TODAY *(Ateneo Gym)*
11:30 a.m.—Adamson vs DLSU (jrs)
2 p.m.—Adamson vs DLSU (srs)
4 p.m.—UST vs FEU (srs)

By June Navarro

FAR Eastern University resumes its mad scramble for a Final Four berth as it tackles University of Santo Tomas today in UAAP men's basketball at the Ateneo Gym.

At 6-6, the Tamaraws need to sweep their remaining assignments in order to barge into the next phase trouble free.

They are duty-bound to begin that task at 4 p.m. against the Tigers, whom the Tamaraws beat on opening day, 66-59.

The Tigers also faltered against the De La Salle Green Archers on Thursday, 66-64, to put their Final Four bid in danger at 5-7.

A setback will push the Tigers on the brink of elimination while shoving the Tamaraws nearer to a semifinal stint.

In the event of an FEU victory, the Tigers face the specter of missing the Final Four for the first time since the format was implemented in 1994.

On that note, prayers would be the Tigers' last resort, hoping that the Tamaraws, the UE Warriors and the NU Bulldogs drop their remaining matches.

In the other varsity game, the Green Archers shoot for their 11th victory and try to secure a twice-to-beat edge in the semis against the Adamson Falcons at 2 p.m.

After crossing paths with the Tigers, the Tamaraws will proceed to their final mission against the Bulldogs next week.

NCAA TODAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
12nn—Letran vs CSB (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—PCU vs San Beda (jrs/srs)

Tiger likes course

WOODS

MONTREAL—Tiger Woods, returning to the course where four years ago he missed his only cut as a professional, shot a 5-under-par 65 Thursday that gave him a share of the lead at the Canadian Open.

Woods was rarely in trouble and capped off a nearly flawless round at the Royal Montreal Golf Club by hitting a 5-iron to 1.8 meters (6 feet) on the final hole.

He was joined at 65 by Jim McGovern, Matt Gogel and rookie Michael Muehr, three guys who have not finished better than fifth on the PGA Tour this year.

Another stroke back was John Daly. *AP*

Chairman's Cup stakes P3M

SOME 400 members, guests and sponsors will compete for top honors and a total of P3 million worth of fabulous prizes at stake in the Forest Hills Golf and Country Club's "The Chairman's Cup 2001" on Sept. 14 and 15 in Antipolo City.

The two-day affair, presented by TaylorMade Adidas and Golforce Inc., is an annual event held in honor of its club chairman lawyer Ferdinand T. Santos. Major sponsors of the tournament are Globe Telecom, Pisanti Golf, The Turf Company and the Fil-Estate Group of Companies.

20 teams in PBL Open

THE BIGGEST PBL pre-season tournament will unfold as 20 teams vie in the 1st PBL Open Invitational Tournament tentatively set Sept. 23 at the Makati Coliseum.

A brainchild of PBL chairman Dioceldo Sy, the weeklong tournament is open to all provincial, commercial and collegiate teams which will get the chance to challenge regular PBL teams.

"There's no eligibility requirement in this tournament. Teams can have ex-pros in their lineup. But the catch is, these teams, whether provincial, commercial or collegiate, will gain the chance to elevate their performance level by playing against PBL teams," explained PBL chief operating officer Perry Martinez.

Interested teams may call up Nida Oliveros or Lani at tel. 897-6383 or 895-6483. Deadline for application will be on Sept. 14.

Super Karting roars off

THE PENULTIMATE leg of the 2001 Shell Super Karting Championships will spice up the races to mark the inauguration of the Cebu Kart Trak in Mabolo, Cebu, this morning.

The Cebu International Karting Association will play host to some 60 competitors from Manila and Cebu who will dispute individual and team honors in various categories over the weekend.

The Philippine International Karting Association and the Carmona Circuit Philippines will oversee the event. The series' other benefactors are Bridgestone, Nokia, Coca-Cola, Demvel's Enterprises, Eastway Racing Matchbox/Hot Wheels and WG & A Shipping Company.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled By
Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: PGA - The International, Third Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

CVS Charity Classic, Day Two at 10 p.m. on ESPN

Golf Classics Magnificent 8 - Royal Birkdale at midnight on ESPN

TENNIS: Masters Series (Cincinnati), Early Round Coverage Day #2 at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. (r), Early Round Coverage Day #3 tomorrow at 1 a.m. on ESPN

VOLLEYBALL: FIVB Beach Volleyball - Germany Open, Men's 3rd Place and Final at 10 a.m. (r), Men's Highlights at 5:30 p.m. (r - 11:30 p.m.), Norway Open - Men's Semifinals at 12 midnight on Star Sports

BASEBALL: Baseball Max at 7 a.m. on ESPN

Sunday Night Baseball at 10 a.m. (r) on ESPN

BOWLING: Professional Women's Bowling Association (Dallas) at 3 p.m. (r) on ESPN

SOCCER: 2001 MLS All Star Game at 7:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN

World Cup Mix at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

2001 Mexin Door China FA Cup Quarterfinals at 9:30 p.m. on Star Sports

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TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST., MAKATI CITY	VERSE 2	ALLAN K SEPT. 26 ☎ 890.4735
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Partyplace SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA	PLAYBACK SUGAR & REGIE	TRUEFAITH OCT. 12 ☎ (045) 961.3360
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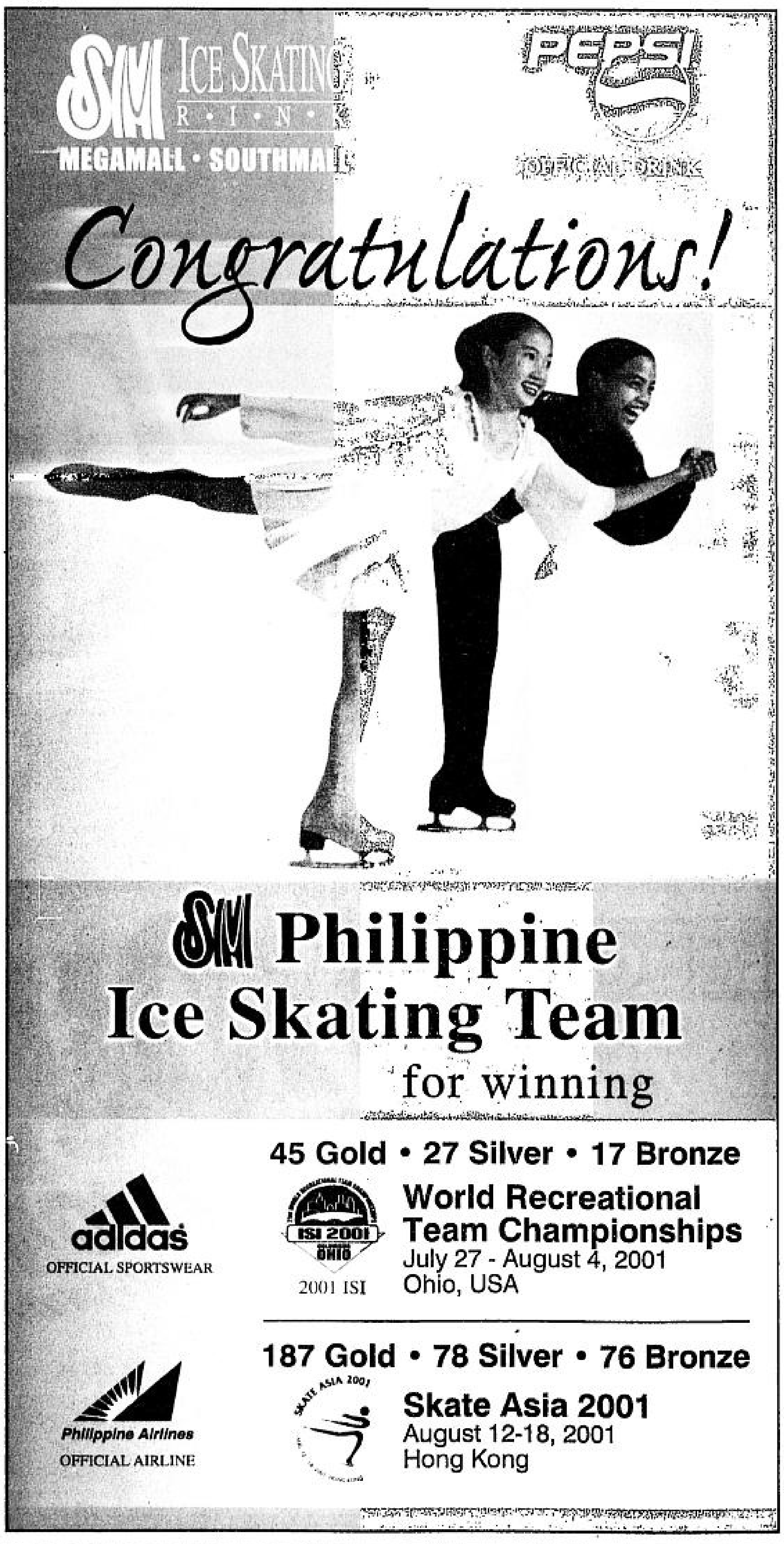
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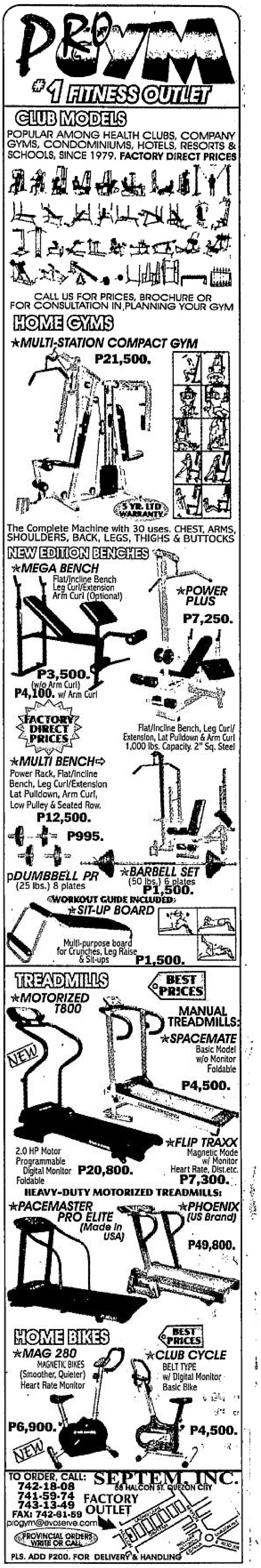
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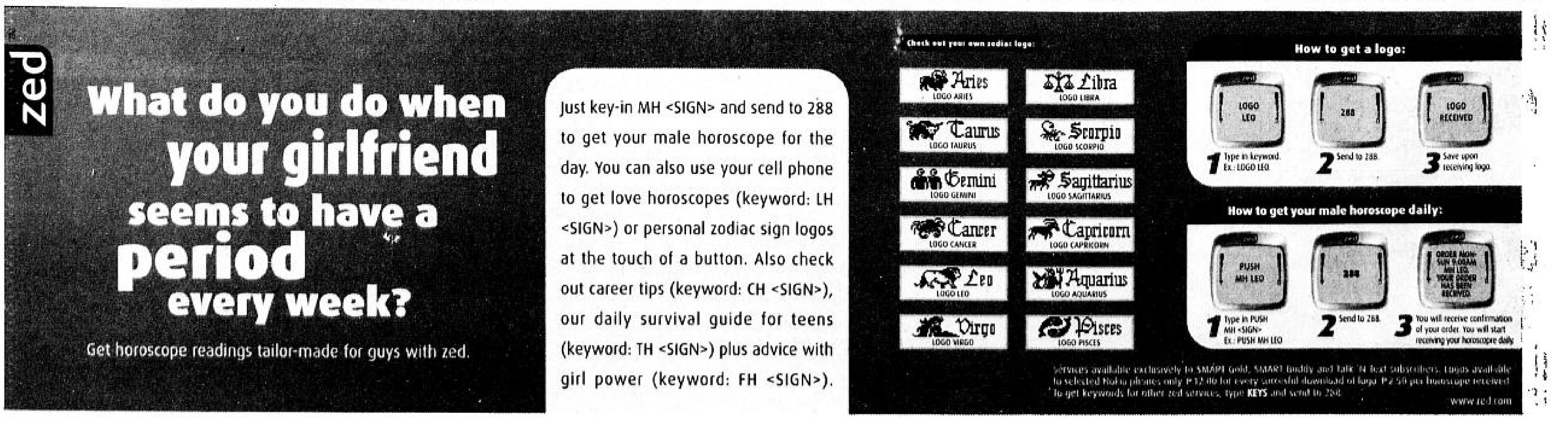
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PBA Governors Cup on today A19

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Malaysia	57	45	42
Indonesia	44	43	58
Singapore	23	28	45
Philippines	19	27	40
Vietnam	17	20	27
Brunei	4	12	31
Myanmar	3	10	10
Laos	1	0	3
Cambodia	0	0	0

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

SEA Games on

RP hopes to hit Magic 3

By DENNIS U. EROA

KUALA LUMPUR—The 21st Southeast Asian Games unfurls today in this sprawling capital city, with the Philippines confident of improving on its fifth-place finish in the 1999 edition in Brunei.

Aside from the Philippines, the other countries competing are defending champion Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Brunei.

RP SCHEDULE TODAY

Gymnastics
9 a.m.—Men's artistic (Roel Ramirez, Rico Ramirez, Bonny Brydon Sy Jr., Al Ramirez)
Shooting
8 a.m.—Men's trap 75 targets (Eric Ang, Jaime Recio, Jethro Dionisio)
Women's trap 75 targets, final (Josefina Gay Corral)

Olympian rower Benjie Tolentino will carry the Philippine flag at 7 tonight for the 400-plus Nationals, who will march inside the eye-popping National Stadium in Bukit Jalil clad in blue barong tagalog and black pants.

TOLENTINO

Lydia de Vega-Mercado, Asia's former sprints queen, will also bask in glory as she joins other SEA Games greats in the torch relay. Diay, as she is popularly called, was a much-adored athlete during her prime and her records in the SEA Games 100 meters (11.28 seconds) and 200 meters (23.37) remain untouched.

The Philippines is competing in 29 of 32 events in a no-nonsense bid to regain its lofty billing as the chief rival of Indonesia and Thailand for overall supremacy. It hopes to hit the Magic 3 this time.

The country isn't seeing action in netball, field hockey and petanque, but should be delighted with the return of gold-medal rich events like wushu, judo, gymnastics, track and field, swimming and fencing.

"It will not hurt if we plunged into action full of confidence and enthusiasm," said Freddie Jalasco, chef de mission of the Philippine delegation. The Nationals pocketed 20 golds, three less than Singapore in Brunei where the Filipinos saw action in 19 sports.

Thailand, which lorded it over in Brunei with 64 golds, is expected to slug it out with Malaysia and Indonesia in the battle for overall supremacy although Singapore and the Philippines are capable of

SEA/A18

Festive mood sweeps Malaysia

MALAYSIA really fits the bill when it comes to hosting the Southeast Asian Games.

Its well-placed infrastructure and warm-natured nationals mirror Malaysia's capability of hosting an event of such magnitude apart from the several other international events it had already hosted.

The Formula One Grand Prix, the World Rugby Sevens, World Cup of golf and the Commonwealth Games were just some of the high-wire global events Malaysia had taken under its care.

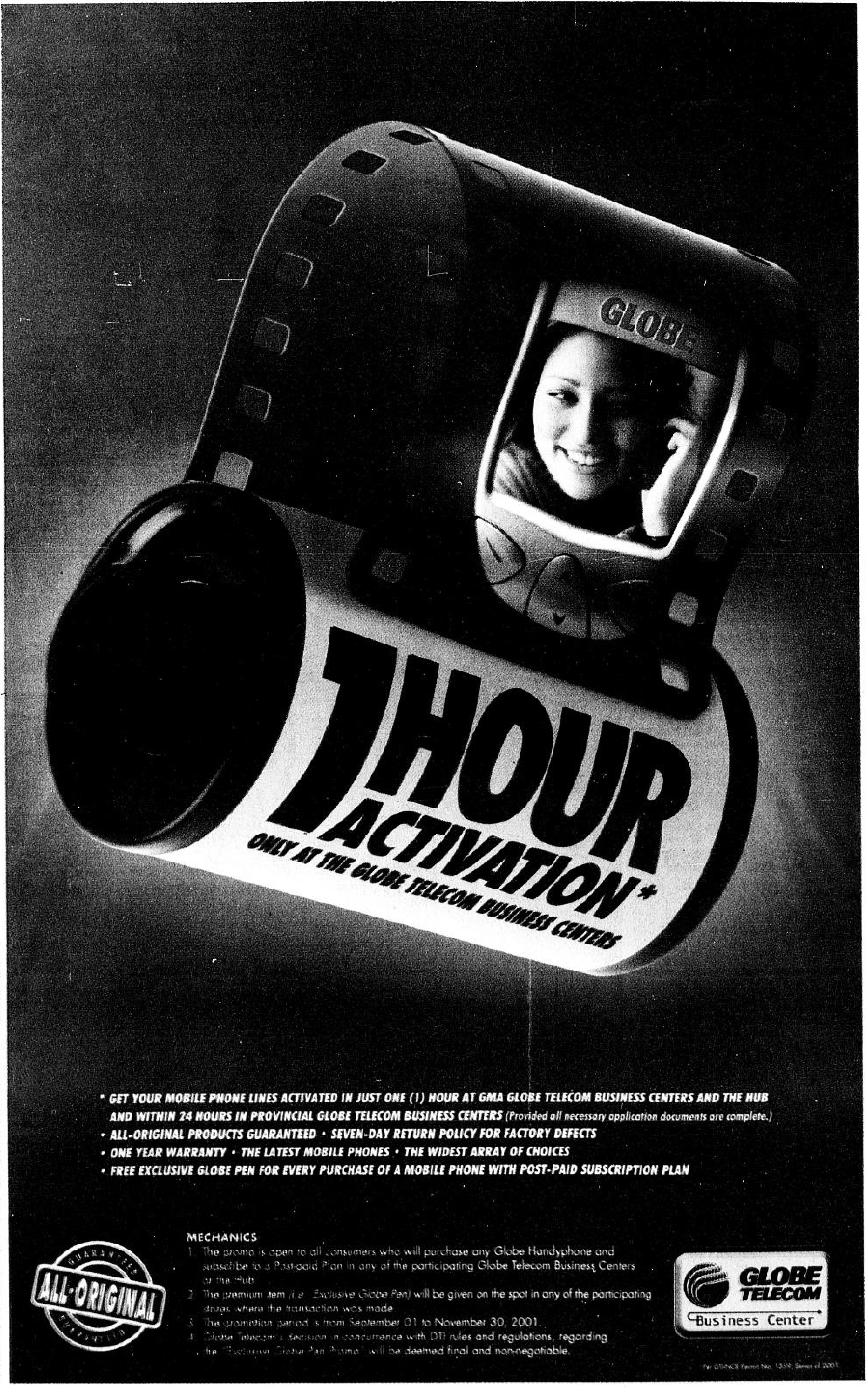
Though Malaysia is always a step slower when it comes to basketball, this city of 22 million is making great strides in squash, swimming, badminton, hockey, bowling, snooker and billiards and karate.

Upon arrival at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, Filipino scribes heaped praise on Malaysia's wonderful road network and the sparkling downtown dotted with colorful lights which remind everybody of the holidays.

In a show of support, cars, most of which are Malaysia's national car Proton, display the national flag and the SEA Games logo.

"Si Tumas," the friendly squirrel and the Games' mascot, also dots the main throuroufares and various buildings.

Dennis U. Eroa



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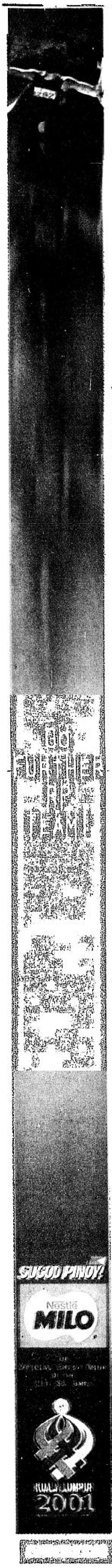

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Filipino-Chinese student kidnapped A23
2 cops caught in QC shabu session A23
Coed shot by 'Dodong' Demonyo A23

Rodriguez mayor on NPA hit list due to dumpsite

BY AGNES DONATO

THE MAYOR of Rodriguez town in Rizal landed on the list of those to be killed by the New People's Army allegedly for allowing his town to be used as a dumpsite for Metro Manila garbage.

Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo yesterday explained that he was thinking of the development of his municipality when he decided to accommodate the garbage in his area.

The NPA reportedly opposed any move to dump Metro Manila's garbage in Rizal province.

There are also those in Metro Manila who resented the agreement Cuerpo made with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to allow the dumping of garbage in Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ/A22

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   - Birthday Entry: July 13, 1965
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Parking facility construction goes on despite DENR order – Atienza

By Jerome Aning

ONLY the courts can stop the Manila City government from carrying out plans to build a parking facility at the back of the Metropolitan Theater, according to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Yesterday, Atienza said the construction of the two-story parking building would continue despite the cease-and-desist order issued by Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

"Secretary Alvarez and the DENR would have to go to court to stop us," Atienza told reporters. "We cannot be prevented from pursuing our development plans for the city because this is part of our duties and responsibilities, and we are empowered to implement them under the Local Government Code."

But the mayor quickly clarified that City Hall is not taking an adversarial stance against the DENR. He said he would continue with the project because he believes there are no legal impediments.

He said the CDO was "based on a wrong premise and faulty appreciation of facts" by the DENR. He said the department erred when it ruled that the parking facility is inside the historic Mehan Garden, which cause-oriented groups want preserved.

He said the city's official records do not include the Mehan among Manila's historical sites. The 5,970-square-meter lot where the Makati City-based Park N Ride Inc. is building a parking facility was never part of the Mehan, he stressed.

He said records of the National Historical Institute also did not list the Mehan as a historical site. But the NHI earlier said that its predecessor, the Commonwealth-era Historical Research and Markers Committee, proclaimed the Mehan a historical site in 1934.

On Aug. 13, the DENR cancelled Park N Ride's environmental compliance certificate because the firm failed to obtain permission from the NHI to build on the lot, which is part of the Mehan.

Atienza stressed there is "no legal and factual basis for such an assertion."

"Our development efforts will not be regulated by any agency but by application of law," he said. "Therefore, we cannot comply with the DENR's order, which we think is unfair."

On Jan. 29, Atienza entered into a 25-year lease contract worth P48.5 million with Park N Ride.

Critics claimed the lease was illegal because the city council ordinance authorized the mayor to build the structure either through administration or by contract of construction.

But the mayor's office said the city council in a resolution dated Feb. 25 approved the lease.

Earlier, city legal officer Melchor Monsod explained that the lease was "incidental" because the city government would still own the structure.

Atienza said the parking building is only part of City Hall's "Pugad ng Kalayaan" project which aims to develop the area east of Intramuros that includes the Liwasang Bonifacio, Mehan and the Light Rail Transit's central terminal.

"We have to put in mind that conservation and preservation should be blended with the needs of the present generation," Atienza said.

PALIGID
NAMAN ANG
KA
MAAWA NA KAYO!
KLP
KABATAAN NG LAS PIÑAS? NANGANGANIB MAWALA

RESIDENTS of Barangay Daniel Fajardo in Las Piñas City joined a recent rally to protest against the growing dumpsite in their community. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Lacson is caught lying again

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SEN. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson has been caught lying again when he presented a "fake and tampered" report to the Senate in a bid to show that US customs investigators consider Mary Ong, a.k.a. Rosebud, a "witness without credibility."

Ong is a witness on Lacson's illegal activities in the past, such as drug trafficking.

Lying is one of the shortcomings of the former Philippine National Police (PNP) chief.

***

His famous or infamous words when he was still the PNP chief were "I hate politicians. I will never become one." Or words to that effect. But where is Lacson now?

***

I wonder why this guy from Cavite did not flunk at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) where the honor code is strictly followed.

A PMA cadet does not lie, cheat or steal. He does not tolerate other cadets who lie, cheat or steal. Violation of the honor code means expulsion from the academy.

It's a miracle Lacson passed the PMA since he's probably a congenital liar.

***

Lacson tried to show that he still had the PMA honor code at heart when he used words only another PMAer would understand during a Senate hearing.

Lacson asked Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, himself a PMA graduate—in fact, five years Lacson's senior at the academy—if he was telling the truth with these words: "All right, sir?"

The words "all right," especially in the form of a question, are asked of a PMA cadet when his credibility is under question. A cadet being asked the question is supposed to answer, "All right, sir" and his word is taken as gospel truth. If he's found to have lied, he is immediately kicked out of the academy.

***

Lacson was probably embarrassed no end when Reyes answered: "I'm under oath, Your Honor."

A fellow senator, Rodolfo Biazon, himself a PMA graduate, criticized the neophyte senator from Cavite for showing off.

Biazon said Lacson's question was irrelevant since Reyes was under oath.

***

By the way, why doesn't Lacson accept the challenge of his nemesis, military intelligence Col. Victor Corpus, to deny under oath that he has millions of dollars deposited in banks in Hong Kong, Canada and the United States?

Corpus also challenged him to give the government a special power of attorney to look into his dollar accounts abroad and to take a lie detector test.

If he's really innocent, why doesn't he take up Corpus on his challenge?

***

Former police colonel Danilo Mangila, director of the national region of the Land Transportation Office (LTO), refuses to vacate his post after he has been replaced. LTO chief Edgardo Abenina has relieved Mangila of his post.

Mangila reportedly threatened to kill his replacement, an LTO career official, my LTO sources said.

Mangila was taken to the agency by retired Gen. Manuel Bruan when he was appointed LTO chief. He remained with the agency even after Bruan was relieved.

Everybody at the LTO is afraid of Mangila, I am told, because he's fast with his fists and draws his gun at the drop of a hat. He once allegedly poked a gun at a security guard inside the LTO premises when he was drunk.

Pare, bakit abusado ka na ngayon? You were not like that before when you were at the Constabulary Highway Patrol Group (CHPG). Power has gotten to your head.

***

My Chinoy friend, Wilfredo "Willy" Keng, denies a newspaper report (not the INQUIRER's) that he was engaged in human smuggling.

He says that the report could have come from a former Manila councilor who used to be his business partner.

Keng asked why should he be engaged in illegally bringing in Chinese nationals when, according to him, it's so easy to get a visa to the Philippines. "For P2,000, a Chinese can apply for a visa with the Philippine consulate," says Keng.

Keng showed me a certification dated April 16, 2001 from the Bureau of Immigration saying that the agency does not have any derogatory record about him

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 8, 2001
Birth of Mary

1st Reading: *Mic 5:1-4 or Rom 8:28-30*

Gospel: *Mt 1:18-23*

This is how Jesus Christ was born. Mary his mother had been given to Joseph in marriage but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Then Joseph, her husband, made plans to divorce her in all secrecy. He was an upright man, and in no way did he want to discredit her.

While he was pondering over this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She has conceived by the Holy Spirit, and now she will bear a son. You shall call him 'Jesus' for he will save his people from their sins."

All this happened in order to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and he will be called Emmanuel* which means: God-with-us.

Commentary:

The gospel of Matthew starts with genealogy. What a way to start a literary work! What is so important about genealogy? We find it also in the gospel of Luke in chapter 3 and in some books of the Old Testament. As a Jew who considers lineage important, Matthew painstakingly traces the origins of Jesus. Scholars agree on the meaning of the numerical symbolism employed: 14 generations from Abraham to David, 14 generations (David to deportation) and 14 generations (deportation to Christ). Fourteen is the numerical equivalent of the name of David, written only in consonants. In Hebrew alphabet, d is the fifth letter, v is fourth. It proves Jesus Christ comes from a royal family. Therefore, he should not be taken for granted. Like David, he is anointed by God to lead his people. Let him be our boss then.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Treachery—The trial court rules that the killing was qualified by treachery. It failed to explain, however, the basis of said ruling. Indeed, the proven facts do not adequately establish the presence of this qualifying circumstance. Treachery is present when the means, method or form of execution gives the person attacked no opportunity for self-defense or retaliation. It must be proven that such means, method or form of execution is deliberately and consciously adopted without danger to the accused. In this case, the prosecution proved that appellant fired at the back of the victim. It was not able to show, however, that appellant had deliberately adopted the attack, considering that it was executed during a commotion and as a result of it. Moreover, it could not be said that the attack was without risk to himself, all of whom were alert and one was even armed. Well-settled is the rule that a qualifying circumstance must be established as clearly as the elements of a crime. In this case, treachery was not proven beyond reasonable doubt. Absent any other qualifying circumstance, appellant should therefore be convicted only of homicide, not murder. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, People v. Cabareño, G.R. No. 138645, January 16, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

LRT introduces new fare system

LRT stations from Monumento to Baclaran will have a grand day today when the transport system introduces the Automated Fare Collection System (AFCS) to replace the token-based fare.

The new system will use plastic recyclable magnetic cards that will allow passengers to enter and exit the LRT line 1 network through the automatic gates that directly control passenger movement.

The new fare system means there will be automatic control in both entry and exit of passengers, unlike in the token system which controls only the entry of passengers.

For now, two types of tickets will be used: single-journey tickets which are valid only on the day they are purchased, and stored value tickets worth P120 which are for multiple trips and valid for six months from date of purchase.

LRT management, through the Office of the Administrator, is requesting commuters to follow instructions to avoid penalties.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said tokens bought in bulk should be used up by today or be kept as souvenirs.

LRTA Administrator Teodoro Cruz will start the inauguration of the AFCS at 10 a.m. today. Alvarez and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will cut the ceremonial ribbon launching the new system.

According to the Department of Transportation and Communication, the new LRT fare system is in preparation for the seamless travel scheme that will unite all the existing railways in the metropolis—the LRT-1 from Monumento to Baclaran, the Metrostar Express and the LRT-2 from Santolan.

Great Chicken

GMA, JOLLIBEE IN BRUNEI

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, during her recent state visit to Brunei, went to the Jollibee outlet in Yayasan Complex and praised the store and its crewmembers for introducing Filipino hospitality and service to foreign shores and for bringing pride to their country. The Yayasan store is one of the chain's four branches in Brunei. Dato Paduka-Haji Hapidz Laksamana, managing director of the Brunei partner of Jollibee International, said one of the favorites of Bruneians is Nasi Lemak (Chicken Joy) which uses local spices and ingredients.

Rodriguez mayor on NPA hit list due to dumpsite

(From page A21)

"I hope they would understand that what I'm doing is for the benefit of the municipality and my constituents," Cuerpo said.

He said one of the conditions he set during his negotiation with the MMDA was that measures should be taken to prevent scavengers from putting up shanties in the landfill area.

He also proposed that an area be designated as residential community for the scavengers.

"Hopefully, the scavengers would be able to afford the monthly amortization for government housing with the income they would earn from their activity in the landfill," Cuerpo said.

He said he shares the same concern the NPA has for the poor.

"That is why I am allowing Rodriguez to be used as a sanitary landfill for Metro Manila," he said. "I know it will bring progress and opportunity to the people."

He noted that Rodriguez is only a short distance from industrial centers like Quezon City, which is about 10 to 15 kilometers away via Marikina City and Payatas.

But he said that for decades now, "commerce and investment would not flow into Rodriguez."

"Until now, we are lagging behind our neighbors in terms of growth and development," he said.

The mayor said that the garbage problem has become a national concern and the municipality acknowledged its role in solving it.

"The Rodriguez government believes that hosting squatter relocation sites and a sanitary landfill, if managed properly, could be the town's engine for growth," Cuerpo said.

A government housing project known as "Erap City" is located in Rodriguez.

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday protested the accusation by some local government units (LGUs) that he was evading responsibility for the garbage problem. He insisted that piles of trash are growing in Metro Manila streets because LGUs fail to comply with the segregation law.

Abalos said the law is very clear that garbage should be properly segregated for it to be collected by garbage haulers.

"I have strict orders to garbage haulers not to collect garbage that is not properly segregated," he said.

He pointed out that under Republic Act No. 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, garbage collectors could be imprisoned for 15 to 30 days or be fined P1,000 to P3,000, or both, if they collect unsegregated garbage.

Under the segregation scheme, household and commercial waste should be separated into wet and dry, or degradable and biodegradable, before it is collected on scheduled collection days.

Quezon City Mayor Felicisimo Belmonte Jr. said while his city continues to improve its system of garbage collection, there are towns and cities at the Quezon City boundary jeopardizing its cleanliness efforts.

Belmonte was referring to his discovery of a truckload of hospital wastes dumped along C-5 Road and Katipunan Avenue near the Sta. Clara church on Wednesday morning. Residents complained that it was the sixth dumping incident in the area.

The Metro Manila Mayors League outlined four major areas of concern that it will present to the MMDA for immediate action.

According to league spokesperson Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad, the first on the list of concerns is "best solution to the garbage problem, including finding a permanent dumpsite and formulating creative and effective garbage disposal."

The other areas concern the traffic problem, police control by local government units and full payment of the share of LGUs of the value added tax.

With a report from Nelson F. Flores

Anda residents meeting

THE ANDANIANS Association Inc., an organization of natives and relatives of residents of Anda, Pangasinan who are residing in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, will hold a meeting on Saturday, Sept. 15, at the residence of Anda Mayor Alice Jimenez-Pulido in Fairview, Quezon City.

Anda is known as the mother-island of the world-famous Hundred Islands.

AAI president Jessie Cabalquinto Panit said the meeting would tackle projects like the setting up of a cottage on a beach in Barangay Tondol which is fast becoming a tourist attraction and being dubbed "Boracay in the north" because of its white sands and clear waters, the construction of a new market and waiting sheds.

Panit said the mayor would also discuss her other projects like roads in Carot, Cabungan, Awile, Sabiig and other barangays.

Andanians can call Panit at tel. 912-0511, 913-2373, 714-6698; Harry Cativo, 527-8421; Eli Canta, (046) 571-0001, and cell 0917-6491082.

Filipino-Chinese student kidnapped

BY CHRISTIAN ESGUERRA

ANOTHER Filipino-Chinese was kidnapped in Valenzuela City, barely a week after four Chinese businessmen were abducted in the city.

At least eight men armed with M-16 rifles seized Irvin Chua Kho, 29, from his house in Barangay Parada about 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, said Supt. Leopoldo Oreña, Valenzuela police chief.

As of yesterday, police said Kho's family has not received a ransom demand and no group has claimed responsibility for the abduction.

But Kho's disappearance could be connected to drugs, said Insp. Salvador de la Cruz of Valenzuela police. He said Kho was a suspected drug dealer and could have been abducted after he failed to remit money from his alleged drug transactions.

De la Cruz also said former policemen and not kidnap-for-ransom groups could be behind Kho's abduction.

Kho was with his friends Vannie Uy, Leroy, Joy and Efren when armed men broke into his house and poked guns at them, police said.

The suspects hog-tied Kho's friends and then dragged Kho into a vehicle, police said. But before driving away, they fired a shot to warn Kho's companions from seeking police assistance.

Police found in Kho's house the spent shell of an M-16 rifle and several lengths of nylon and electrical cords used to tie up Kho's companions.

Police said they have no clues on what vehicle the abductors used and which way they went.

Kho's kidnapping came after six armed men abducted four Chinese businessmen on Tatalon Street in Barangay Ugong near the Valenzuela-Caloocan boundary on Sept. 1.

De La Cruz said police have not yet identified the businessmen's kidnappers because relatives of the victims have refused to cooperate with investigators.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police, the main police arm investigating the abduction, was said to have issued a news blackout upon the request of the families of the victims.

Coed shot by 'Dodong Demonyo'

A FEMALE student is in critical condition after a neighborhood toughie allegedly shot her during a heist in Caloocan City on Thursday night, police said.

Catherine Garcia, 20, was shot in the chest by a man identified only as Dodong Demonyo who robbed her and her two friends near her house on Langaray Street in Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan, said case investigator PO2 Joseph de la Cruz.

The suspect is a known toughie in the Dagat-Dagatan area and is said to be a member of the "tirtir" gang, police said.

Garcia and her friends Beverly Malonzo and Ray Bautista were on board a tricycle when Dodong and an unidentified companion blocked their path and announced the holdup around 8:30 p.m. Thursday, investigation showed.

Dodong immediately shot Garcia when she shouted for help, police said.

Dodong and his companion escaped with an undetermined amount of loot, while Garcia was taken to the Tondo General Hospital.

Christian V. Esguerra

AGLIPAY AIDE LINKED TO SUSPECTS

2 cops caught in QC shabu session

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

AS IF Mary "Rosebud" Ong's damning exposés on the police were not enough, two lawmen were caught with four suspected drug addicts while they were sniffing shabu in Quezon City before dawn yesterday.

An aide of Deputy Director Edgar Aglipay, Philippine National Police deputy chief for operations, was linked to the group when the aide's car was found in front of the suspected drug lair.

A seventh man managed to escape when police rounded up the drug suspects in a house on Manansala Street in Krus na Ligas, Quezon City, said Supt. Guillermo Cabuenas, Central Police District Station 9 chief.

CPD police arrested SPO4 Alfredo Asuncion Jr., 40, of the Cordillera Administrative Region Police Office, and PO2 Ricarte A. Pajarito, 30, of the National Capital Region Police Office mobile group.

The two lawmen were caught taking shabu with painter Joel L. Cabonita, 37, of Sitio Gumamela, Cogeo, Antipolo City; taxi driver Agripino C. Botoon, 45, of Greenpark Village, Cainta, Rizal; Maritess E. Agluba, 27, of Pansol, Quezon City; and Elma A. Miranda, 18, of Krus na Ligas, Quezon City, Cabuenas said.

The police said they seized from the six suspects two improvised tooters, an aluminum foil, two lighters, scissors, and three transparent plastic bags with traces of a white substance suspected to be shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), according to Cabuenas.

Senior Insp. Noel E. Pablo, of the PNP Special Action Force and an aide of Aglipay, was linked to the suspects when his car, which contained his PNP ID card, was found in front of the suspects' lair.

Pablo denied he was part of the group and said he had given his car to Pajarito to have it repainted. Pablo also took a drug test yesterday morning and was found negative for drug use.

The suspects were caught at 2:05 a.m. after policemen arrested Roberto Buksh in a buy-bust operation in front of the suspected drug lair, said Chief Insp. Alfredo B. Roxas, chief of CPD Station 9's drug enforcement unit.

A DEU agent pretended to be a buyer and paid Buksh P300 for three sachets of shabu.

Roxas' men immediately arrested the suspect when he turned over the three sachets to the undercover policeman. They also seized from Buksh two more sachets of shabu allegedly hidden in one of his pockets.

They checked the house on Manansala Street, Buksh's alleged hideout, for any more illegal drugs and were surprised to find seven persons, including the two lawmen, having a pot session inside. In the confusion that followed, one of the suspects escaped, Roxas said.

Radio reports yesterday morning tagged Pablo as the suspect who escaped.

"But that is unfair to him because one of the suspects (Pajarito) simply used (Pablo's) car without his authorization," said Supt. Nestor Abalos, Station 9's intelligence and investigation bureau chief. "And his drug test results showed he is negative for drugs."

Pablo, in a sworn affidavit, said he gave his car to Pajarito on Aug. 30 to have it repainted at a car shop near the suspect's house in Marikina City.

Pablo added he was assigned to Aglipay "24 hours a day" from Sept. 3 to Sept. 9.

He said he was surprised when he heard on the radio that his name was linked to the arrested drug users.

Pablo said he was with Aglipay at 7:05 a.m. yesterday, and that the two of them had just heard Mass at Valle Verde V, when he heard his name on the radio.

Aglipay told him to go to CPD Station 9 to clear up the matter. Pablo immediately took a drug test yesterday morning at the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory at Camp Crame.

CPD Station 9 agents are trying to find out the identity of the man who got away.

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SHREK - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	MOULIN ROUGE - P13 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - P13 10:50, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

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NBI now online

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

BY accessing its website (www.nbi.doj.gov.ph), people can now lodge a complaint with the National Bureau of Investigation right from the comforts of home.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez early this week officially launched the agency's website from its main office on Taft Avenue in Manila.

"The NBI joins the cyber world as it opens a website," said Wycoco during the launching.

"Cognizant of the importance of information technology, the NBI hopes that through this website, law enforcement by and large, as well as the universal crusade against crime and lawlessness, will be immeasurably enhanced, for we all share in the earnest effort to realize a common concern—an orderly, peaceful and universal milieu," Wycoco added.

Unlike the websites of other government agencies, the NBI website has a feature that allows the public to file a complaint through its online complaint desk.

The online complaint desk is expected to enhance the agency's efficiency in solving crimes, according to Wycoco.

He said complainants need not go to the NBI to lodge their complaints.

"Just give the information asked for by the online complaint sheet," he said.

In the sheet, which is actually an online affidavit, the agency asks for the complainant's name, profession, age and gender.

It also asks for the name and profession of the object of the complaint as well as the nature of the charges or crime (rape, murder, child and sexual abuse, theft, arson, robbery, homicide, drug possession/trafficking, etc.).

Complainants are required to answer other questions before they can click on the submit button.

But there's a catch: Complainants must attest to the veracity of the complaint. They cannot submit the complaint sheet without signing the online complaint cum affidavit.

By clicking on the submit button, the complainant is actually signing the online document.

A group of selected agents will screen the complaints to check the veracity of the information before the complaints are assigned to concerned NBI divisions.

To discourage pranksters, Wycoco warned that giving untruthful information could lead to perjury charges.

The website has links to other law enforcement agencies like the United States Interpol, Violence Against Women and Children's Desk and Kids Private, an online site concerned with missing and exploited children.

The launch coincided with the inauguration of the agency's new building, which will house the agency's dormitory for agents, the action center and a modern press office.

During the launch, Wycoco handed Perez an Uzi prototype as a token of appreciation for the justice secretary's support for the NBI modernization program.

Aside from the online complaint desk, the website soon will also process online applications for NBI clearance, according to Ruben Solitario, chief of the NBI Electronic Data Processing Division.

For now, Solitario said, the NBI will set up kiosks in selected malls in the metropolis to process the applications.

He said the kiosks would only entertain applicants for renewal of NBI clearances. "The process will only take minutes once the computer, through the NBI crime database, detects that the applicant has no pending cases or has not been convicted of any crimes (involving moral turpitude)," Solitario said.

Earlier, the NBI started its "one-day clearance" process, which allows applicants to get clearances within a day.

The process, however, is only available for applicants who go to the main office and selected field offices in Metro Manila and other urban centers nationwide.

Malabon toughie killed

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THE ALLEGED reign of terror of a neighborhood toughie in Malabon City ended Thursday night when a neighbor shot him to death, police said.

Teodoro Nibunco, who had just been released from jail, died of several gunshot wounds in the body around 7:45 p.m. on Magsaysay Street in Barangay San Agustin, said case investigators PO2 George de la Cruz and PO2 Redentor Mantala.

Nibunco was talking with his friends, one of whom was identified as Basilio Tiki, when the unidentified gunman appeared from behind and shot him with a .9 mm pistol, investigation showed.

Nibunco died on the spot while his attacker escaped, police said.

Recovered at the crime scene were three spent shells of a .9 mm pistol and a fan knife believed to have belonged to Nibunco.

Authorities believe Nibunco was killed by a neighbor whose relative he allegedly killed three years ago.

Days before his killing, Nibunco reportedly had a fight with another neighbor and had beaten up two children in the area, police said.

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"Angelos and Hággadah"
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Book Launching
"Tinig ng Darating at Iba pang Tula by Teo Baylen• Damdamin: Mga Piling Tula ni Iñigo Ed. Regalado• Sa Tabi ng Dagat at Iba pang Tula by Idelfonso Santos• Sampagitang Walang Bango by Iñigo ed. Regalado• Grass Roots & Cadre in the Protest Movement by Vincent Boudreau• Corruption, the Boom and Bust of East Asia ed. by J. Edgardo Campos• Leaving the Priesthood: A Close Reading of Priestly Departures by Emmanuel Fernandez• Image to Meaning: Essays in Philippine Art by Alice Guillermo• People of Power, A Philippine Worldview of Spirit Encounters by John P. McAndrew• History and Society in the Novels of Ramon Muzones by Ma. Cecilia Locsin-Nava• Magosaha: An Ethnography of the Tawi-Tawi Sama Dilaut by H. Arlo Nimmo• The Philippine Revolution of 1896: Ordinary Lives in Extraordinary Times edited by F. Rodao and Felice Noelle Rodriguez• National/Transnational: Subject Formation and Media in and on the Philippines By Rolando B. Tolentino"
Ateneo de Manila University Press

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
"Si Pilandok sa Pulo ng Pawikan by Victoria Añonuevo illustrated by Kora Albano• Ang Pambihirang Buhok ni Lola by Rene Villanueva illustraded by Ibarra Crisostomo• Ibong Adarna 2 by Roberto Alonzo illustrated by Jordan Santos• Bakit Matagal ang Sundo Ko? by Kristine Canon illustrated by Mariano Ching• Magnificent Benito and Two Front Teeth by Augie Rivera and Mike Rivera illustrated by Jason Moss• Sundalong Patpat 2 by Virgilio S. Almario illustrated by Ferdinand Doctolero• Melchora Aquino by Rene Villanueva illustrated by Ferdinand Doctolero• Blue Day by Pipa Escalante illustrated by Abi Goy"
Adarna House

5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Book Launching & Video Presentation
"E-Bookman: Book, Music and Personal Information in the Palm of Your Hand"
Busybook Dstributors

6:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
National Book Awards
Manila Critics Circle

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2001

4:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
"Marxism and Religion: A Fusion of Horizon by Virgilio A. Ojoy, OP• Mary, Seat of Wisdom: A Contemporary Reflection by Roland D. Mactal, OP• Everyday Sense of Existense in a Day by Fr. Jan Sareno• Justice, Patients' Rights, Psychoethics ed. by Fausto B. Gomez, OP & Dr. Anniela Yu-Soliven• Balagtas and His Nationalistic Literature by Dr. Johanna G. Hashim• Dalawampung Tula ng Pag-ibig ni Diosdado Macapagal ed. by Erli Mendoza and Michael Coroza• The Treasures of Lamon Bay by Dr. Frank Tejada• Nakatanim na Granada by Rebecca Añonuevo, Pangarap at Pangitain by Abdon M. Balde, Jr.• Fray Domingo de Salazar, First Bishop of the Philippines by Lucio Gutierrez, OP• Apples and Ampalaya by Augusto V. de Viana• Forensic Medicine by Dr. Teresita Sanchez"
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'Motorcycle Gang' boss falls

BY AGNES DONATO

POLICE yesterday arrested after a brief shootout in Makati City the alleged leader of a motorcycle gang that is believed to be behind the spate of robberies in Mandaluyong City.

The arrest of Rhed Castillo, 35, brought to seven the number of suspected gang members arrested during a week of police operations against the robbery group.

Supt. Sukarno Ikbala, Mandaluyong police chief, said his men were still looking for three more members of the group.

At least 30 witnesses and victims have reportedly turned up and tagged Castillo in various robbery cases.

Ikbala said Castillo was also identified by his cohorts as the one who shot dead Don Bosco College student Dominique Morano, 21, last June 3.

Morano was shot after he refused to give his cash and jewelry to the suspects, investigators said.

On Wednesday, Ikbala presented to City Mayor Benhur Abalos the six other suspects: Mark Calanza, 21; Marvin de los Santos, 29; Eugene Gatchalian, 23; Oscar Oca, 26; Edwin Pablo, 25; and Alex Pine, 24.

The police chief said his men went as far as Bulacan, Marikina and Vito Cruz, Manila in search of Castillo, only to find him in Tejeros, Makati.

Castillo reportedly opened fire at the policemen as soon as he saw them coming to arrest him at dawn yesterday.

Castillo tried to escape through the ceiling of his dark house but policemen eventually cornered him.

Police said they recovered from Castillo two more motorcycles, which his group allegedly used in its illegal operations.

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- The Enterprise Center
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LUZON
- Saver's Mall, Angeles
- Robinsons Place, Imus
- Robinsons Place, Los Baños
- NE Pacific Mall, Cabanatuan

VISAYAS
- SM City Cebu (starts Sept. 1)
- SM City Iloilo
- Robinsons Mall, Bacolod
- Dynasty Square, Tacloban

MINDANAO
- Victoria Mall, Davao
- Mindpro Mall, Zamboanga
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1	SCREAM...FRIDAY 13TH
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	CROCODILE 2
5	A.I.
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	SHREK
8	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

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1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	CROCODILE 2
3	A.I.
4	SHREK
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
7	A.I.
8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	SCREAM...FRIDAY 13TH

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	A.I.
5	CROCODILE 2
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	A.I.
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SHREK
12	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	A.I.
2	CROCODILE 2
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	PLANET OF THE APES
6	A.I.
7	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
8	SHREK
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
11	RUSH HOUR 2
12	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	A.I.
2	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
3	A.I.
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	PLANET OF THE APES
7	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
8	CROCODILE 2
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
11	SHREK
12	SCREAM...FRIDAY 13TH

SM TUTUBAN
2514302

1	A.I.
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	CROCODILE 2

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	CROCODILE 2
2	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
5	SHREK
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	A.I.
8	RUSH HOUR 2
9	SEX EDUCATION
10	RUSH HOUR 2
11	SCREAM...FRIDAY 13TH
12	PLANET OF THE APES

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	CROCODILE 2
5	SEX MEDUSA
6	SHREK
7	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
8	A.I.
9	PLANET OF THE APES
10	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820905

1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RUSH HOUR 2

SM CEBU
2313876

1	A.I.
2	SHREK
3	SCREAM...FRIDAY 13TH
4	COMMAND & CONQUER
5	IRA
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	ANIMAL

SM ILOILO
3209422

1	IRA
2	CLOSED
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	ANIMAL
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	A.I.
7	CLOSED
8	COMMAND & CONQUER

SM PAMPANGA
7120015

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BROTHERHOOD
3	SHREK
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	SEX MEDUSA
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SM SUCAT
8294975

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	CROCODILE 2

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1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	CROCODILE 2

GLORIETTA 4

1	RUSH HOUR 2 in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	PLANET OF THE APES in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	SHREK in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	RUSH HOUR 2 in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	XIU XIU: THE SENT DOWN GIRL (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

Art Film

GREENBELT

1	CROCODILE 2 in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	RUSH HOUR 2 in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE! SEPT. 15, 16, 21 & 22-9PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	RUSH HOUR 2 in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	RUSH HOUR 2 in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	CROCODILE 2 in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE

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EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	CROCODILE 2
2 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
3 (DTS)	A.I.
4 GOLD (DTS)	MOULIN ROUGE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	A.I.
6 GOLD (SDDS)	A.I.
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
8 (ARVIL)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
9 (ARVIL)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10 (ARVIL)	SHREK

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
2	
3 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2 (DTS)	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 3 4
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	A.I.
3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	CROCODILE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A.I.
5	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BUBOT
3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	CROCODILE
6	A.I.
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7053152 - 55

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	SEX MEDUSA
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	RUSH HOUR 2

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	CHAIN OF COMMAND
A	NAKED EYE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	A.I.
2	SEX MEDUSA
3	RESERVE
4	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DTS)	A.I.
8 (SDDS)	A.I.
9 (DOLBY)	CROCODILE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
4 (SDDS)	A.I.
5	CROCODILE 2
6 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
7 (DTS)	A.I.
8	RUSH HOUR 2
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	A.I.
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	CROCODILE 2
4	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
5 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DOLBY)	A.I.
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 696.6795

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3 (DTS)	A.I.
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	RED DIARIES
Lords	RED DIARIES
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RESERVE
4	A.I.

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	A.I.
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	CROCODILE 2
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
PAREHAS ANG LABAN
A.I.
RESERVE
RESERVE
SEX MEDUSA

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	CROCODILE 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	A.I.

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
2 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DOLBY)	A.I.
4	RUSH HOUR 2

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
3 (DTS)	A.I.
4	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	CATS & DOGS
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	CROCODILE 2
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 (DTS)	A.I.

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	A.I.
4	CRAZY / BEAUTIFUL
5	SEX MEDUSA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	A.I.
3	RUSH HOUR 2

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	A.I.

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	SHREK
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANINN
3	PARU PARONG LIGAW

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	A.I.
3	BROTHERHOOD

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SEX MEDUSA
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	HUWAD NA HAYOP

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

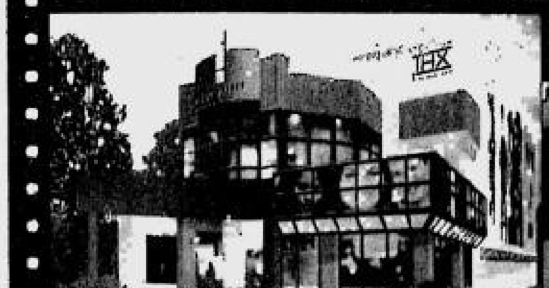
1	DUDURUGIN KO...
2	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	TEENAGE DIARY
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	BROTHERHOOD
4 (DTS EX)	RUSH HOUR 2

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS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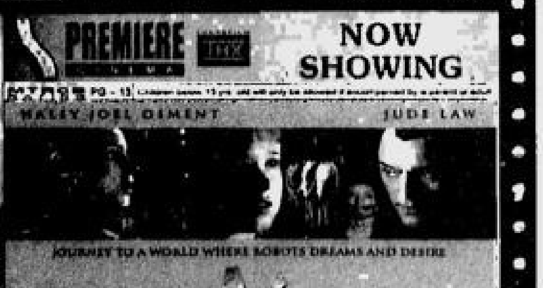

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2	A.I.
3	CROCODILE 2
4	SHREK
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	RUSH HOUR 2
7	MOULIN ROUGE
8	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	A.I.

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	A.I.
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	SHREK
4	A.I.
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	RUSH HOUR 2
7	CROCODILE 2

NOVALICHES
935-3229 to 31

1	RESERVED FOR PRIVATE EVENT
2	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	A.I.
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	CROCODILE 2
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	SHREK

IMUS
(046) 471-8188

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	CROCODILE 2
3	SHREK
4	A.I.
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	SHREK
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	BROTHERHOOD
5	ANIMAL
6	VENUS

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DIGITAL

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	CROCODILE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	KASIBULAN/ TURN ON
ODEON	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ODEON-2	RUSH HOUR 2
ROBEN	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/ VALENTINE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	TOMB RAIDERS / GET CARTER
QUEZON-1	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
REMAR	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
REMAR-2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
B	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-2	PLANET OF THE APES

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
CINEMA-3	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A.I.
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-6	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-7	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	A.I.
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	A.I.
CINEMA-12	CROCODILE 2
CINEMA-14	SHREK
CINEMA-15	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-3	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-4	SHREK
CINEMA-5	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-6	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	NAKALIMOT SA PAG-IBIG
CINEMA-2	EVANGELINE KATORSE
CINEMA-4	OUTRAGE

Man nabbed for selling month-old daughter

BY JEROME ANING

A PEDICAB driver landed behind bars Tuesday night for allegedly selling his one-month-old daughter after he fought with his live-in wife in Malate, Manila.

Arnel Ilegarko, 44, a resident of Malate, is detained at the Western Police District Station 9 for kidnapping.

SPO4 Purificacion Puntabella, Station 9 investigator, said Ilegarko and his live-in partner Leonora Regelco, 34, quarreled on Sept. 2 because the woman was insisting that she be allowed to return to her old job as waitress.

Ilegarko refused to give his permission. Regelco told police that her husband beat her up, grabbed their unidentified one-month-old daughter and left the house.

She said he returned Wednesday afternoon with a lot of money. She said she was horrified when Ilegarko admitted he sold the baby to someone in Bicol.

Regelco filed a complaint against Ilegarko and had him arrested by the police. The suspect refused to tell investigators to whom he sold the baby.

Police fear the baby was sold to a child-trafficking syndicate.

Caloocan clinic robbed

A CALOOCAN dental clinic on Wednesday lost at least P60,000 in cash and valuables to three armed robbers, police said.

Suspects Larry Rapatan, 24, Alfredo de los Santos, 22, and Lito Umali, 25, all residents of Caloocan, broke into the clinic owned by Dr. Philina Lauilla around 2:30 a.m., said case investigator PO1 Berlito de Guzman.

Rapatan and De los Santos were arrested Thursday while Umali remained at large.

The arrests were made after Felino Santiago, barangay executive officer, identified the suspects as the men he saw coming out of the dental clinic on the day of the robbery, investigation showed.

During the arrest, Rapatan and De los Santos yielded the stolen cellular phones, appliances and jewelry, police said.

Police have not recovered several other cellular phones and personal belongings. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Forum on smoking ailments

THE SAN Juan de Dios Hospital Department of Internal Medicine will hold a lay forum on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease on Wednesday, Sept. 12, starting at 9 a.m.

The forum is called "Hingal, Ubo Dahil sa Paninigarilyo."

There will be free lung function test and medication. For more information, call Melanie Magana of the Department of Internal Medicine at 551-3496; 831-9731 to 36; 831-5641 to 49, local 1150.

Imprisonment for illegal tapping

A MAN caught in the act of illegally tapping from Meralco lines was recently sentenced to a maximum of eight years imprisonment by the Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 153.

Found guilty of violating Republic Act No. 7832 or the Anti-Electricity and Electric Transmission Lines/Materials Pilferage Act was Crisencio Reyes, who was caught illegally tapping from a Meralco line along Narciso Street in Barangay Corazon de Jesus in San Juan on June 2, 1999.

Court records show that on June 2, 1999 barangay council member Deogracias Millarosa received a call about a person tapping from the Meralco lines. Millarosa, together with two barangay watchmen and two policemen, proceeded to the place where they saw a man on top of a Meralco post apparently tapping electricity.

The accused was brought to the barangay hall and later to police headquarters for investigation. Recovered from him were two pairs of pliers, electrical tape and a roll of wire, records said.

Judge Briccio C. Ygana found the accused guilty beyond reasonable doubt of the charges filed against him.

NTC marks 73rd year

THE NATIONAL Teachers College (NTC) will observe its 73rd foundation day on Sept. 28-29.

NTC will have a whole-day celebration with the theme "Karunungan: Tanglaw sa Pagsulong ng Kabuhayan."

The event is open to the residents of the barangays in the NTC's vicinity. It is the school's way of helping its indigent neighbors help themselves to become self-sufficient.

The keynote speaker will be Trade Secretary Mar Roxas.

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AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
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Art Film
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STRICTLY FOR ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

MIRACULOUS!
Xiu Xiu
THE SENT DOWN GIRL
BANNED IN CHINA

EXTREMELY MOVING & OUSTANDING FILM
BANNED IN CHINA
FOR POLITICAL & SEXUAL CONTENT

"Xiu Xiu: The Sent Down Girl" is a powerful love story w/c is exclusively shown at ARTFILM of Glorietta 4 cinemas. Between 1967 and 1976, nearly 8 million Chinese youths were "sent down" for specialized training to the remotest corners of the country. Before being sent down, the young and beautiful Xiu Xiu dreams of becoming a horse trainer in the wide open plains of Tibet, far away from her busy city home. Her journey begins in a training camp in the isolated plains with a solitary and mysterious man. Slowly, Xiu Xiu discovers that she is unlikely to ever see her home again without a wealthy sponsor. Her world becomes a horrifying cage, where "patrons" promise her escape in exchange for her sexual compromise. This is one girl's story and a compassionate deed that inspired one special man and everyone who hears her tale.

Language: Mandarin with English subtitles

WINNER!
Jury Award, 1998 Ft. Lauderdale International Film Festival;
7 Golden Horses (The "Oscars of Taiwan")

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage
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SNEAK PREVIEWS ON SEPT. 10 (MON.) & (TUES.)
Walt Disney Pictures presents
THE PRINCESS DIARIES

What would you do if you discovered you were royalty? ROCK, RULE AND REIGN!

From Garry Marshall, the director of 'PRETTY WOMAN" and 'RUNAWAY BRIDE", comes a girl-empowering modern-day fairy tale transformation of an ordinary 15-year old teenager, Mia (winsome newcomer Anne Hathaway), into a graceful princess tasked to take over the reigns of a tiny European kingdom through the tutelage of her grandmother (Oscar®winner Julie Andrews of "The Sound of Music") who turns out to be the queen.

This family-friendly fun movie also stars pop singing sensation Mandy Moore in her first big screen performance and Hector Elizondo ("Pretty Woman") with soundtrack cuts from BBMak, Backstreet Boys, Aaron Carter, Hanson, Myra, 3Gs, Krystal Harris and many more. On SEPT. 19, troop to the cinemas and meet the newest member of the ruling class.

AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
OPENS SEPT. 12 (WED.)
Art Film

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
TRIPLE WINNER!
SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL
Audience Award: Dramatic
Cinematography Award: Dramatic & Grand Jury Prize: Dramatic

THREE SEASONS

Starring: Harvey Keitel, Lola Al Guimond, Don Duong & Nguyen Ngoc Hiep
Three Seasons tells three tangentially related stories: a romance between a forward-thinking prostitute and a cyclo driver; a street kid who loses his case of cheap trinkets; and a student of a reclusive teacher/poet who has lost his fingers to leprosy. Each of the stories is quite simple, but together they create a complex, layered experience of a country simultaneously caught up in its own past, present and future.

Vietnamese-American Bui's film has the distinction of being the first American production to shoot in Vietnam since the War.A cinematic poem that works more as a reflective mood piece than a traditional story, Bui's lyrical script and Rinzler's magical camera work combine to create an original, lasting motion picture.

Language: Vietnamese w/ English sub-titles

He Will Rock You!
ACTION + COMEDY + ROMANCE BEGINS SEPT. 12
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
"TWO THUMBS UP!"
EBERT & ROEPER AND THE MOVIES
"'A Knight's Tale' kicks off the summer season in HIGH STYLE! A blend of 'Gladiator' and 'Shakespeare In Love'..."
ANDREW JOHNSTON
US WEEKLY
Featuring music from Robbie Williams + Queen Third Eye Blind, David Bowie WAR & Eric Clapton
HEATH LEDGER
A KNIGHT'S TALE
aknightstale.com
"WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS"
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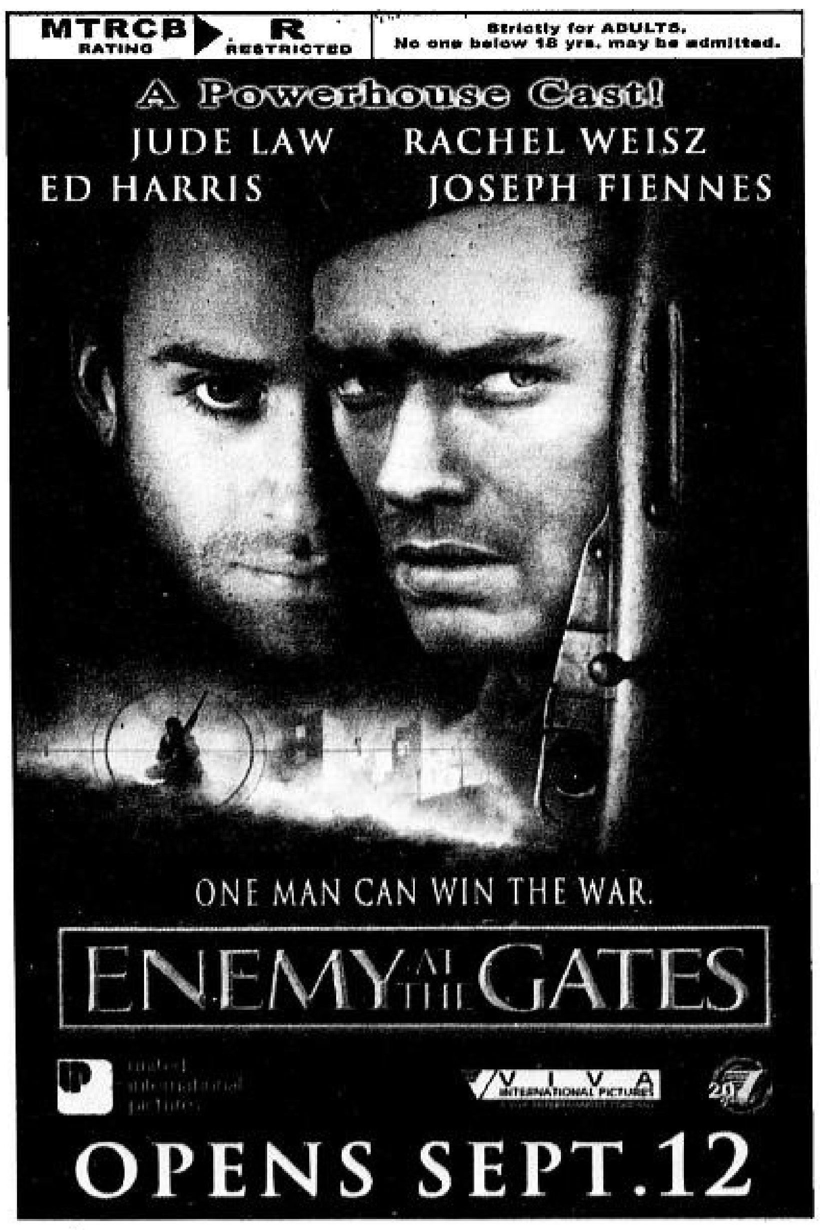
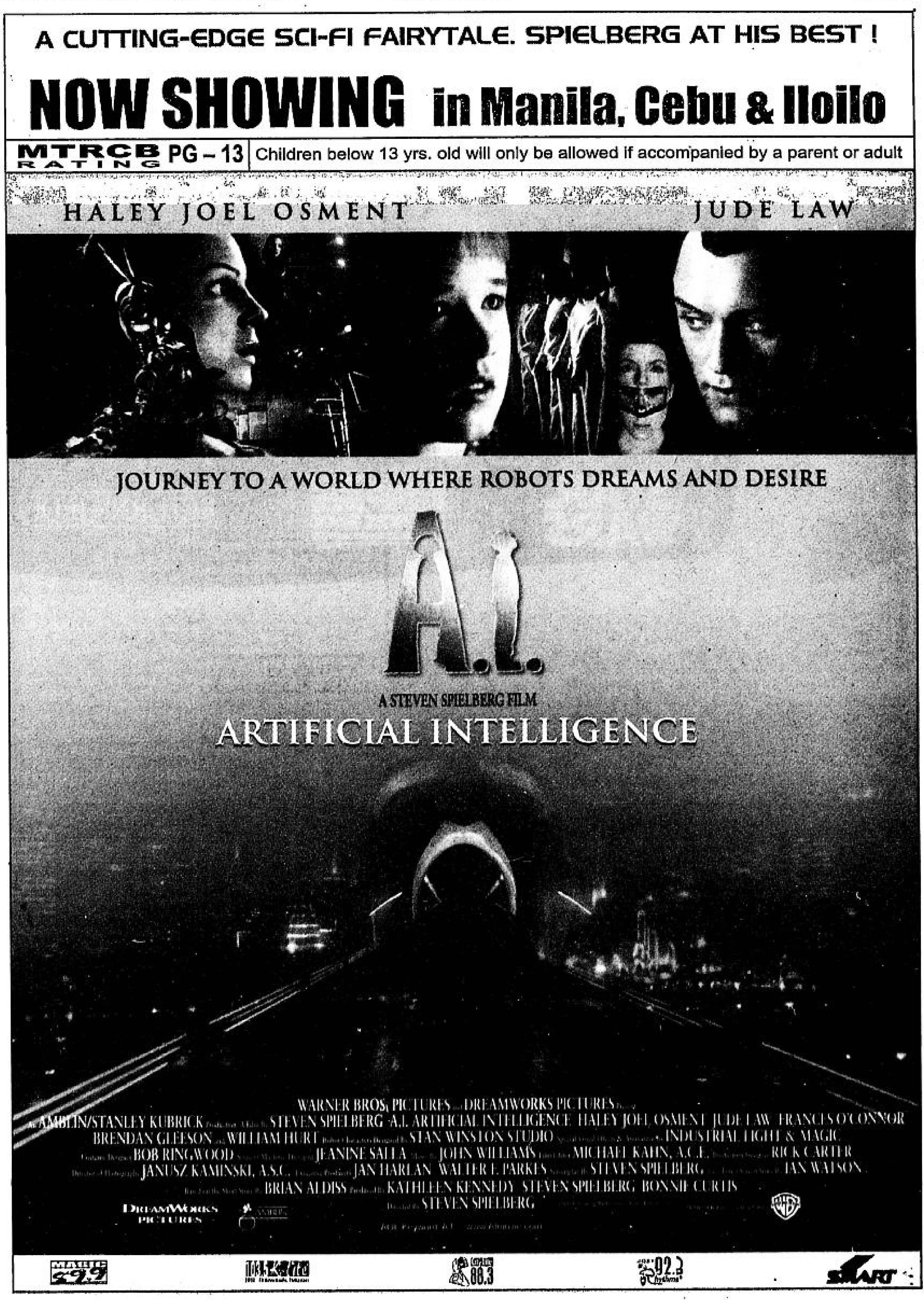

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED
Strictly for ADULTS.
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
A Powerhouse Cast!
JUDE LAW RACHEL WEISZ
ED HARRIS JOSEPH FIENNES
ONE MAN CAN WIN THE WAR.
ENEMY AT THE GATES
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
OPENS SEPT. 12


A CUTTING-EDGE SCI-FI FAIRYTALE. SPIELBERG AT HIS BEST !
NOW SHOWING in Manila, Cebu & Iloilo
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JOURNEY TO A WORLD WHERE ROBOTS DREAMS AND DESIRE
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A STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM
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STEVEN SPIELBERG
DREAMWORKS PICTURES
MAGIC 89.9
88.3
92.3
SMART

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Riverbank procession on Virgin Mary's day

MARIKINA City celebrates the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary today with a fluvial and a foot procession along the Marikina River.

The procession starts at 3 p.m. at the San Antonio Chapel in Kalumpang. It will proceed to the Riverbank Center, where a Mass will be held.

Those who are joining the procession are requested to come in blue or white clothes and to bring candles.

Year-old Nicole needs liver transplant within 2 months

AT FIRST glance, Maria Nicole Andres looks like any other sweet and gregarious year-old girl. But her yellow eyes and swollen belly eventually betray her life-threatening condition.

Doctors said Nicole suffers from biliary atresia, a congenital ailment that requires a liver transplant within the next two months.

Nicole's parents, Edwin and Nimfa Andres, have no means to raise the P2.5 million needed so that doctors can transfer tissues from Nimfa's healthy liver to her daughter.

Edwin, an employee of Purefoods, told the INQUIRER that specialists actually want to send Nicole to the US for treatment.

"But we are hoping that the doctors in the Philippines can help my daughter," Edwin said. "At present, we have no means to pay for the P2.5 million for an operation here, much less for an operation in the States."

Nicole's liver condition was accidentally discovered when her pediatrician recommended a blood test following routine vaccination when she was only two months old.

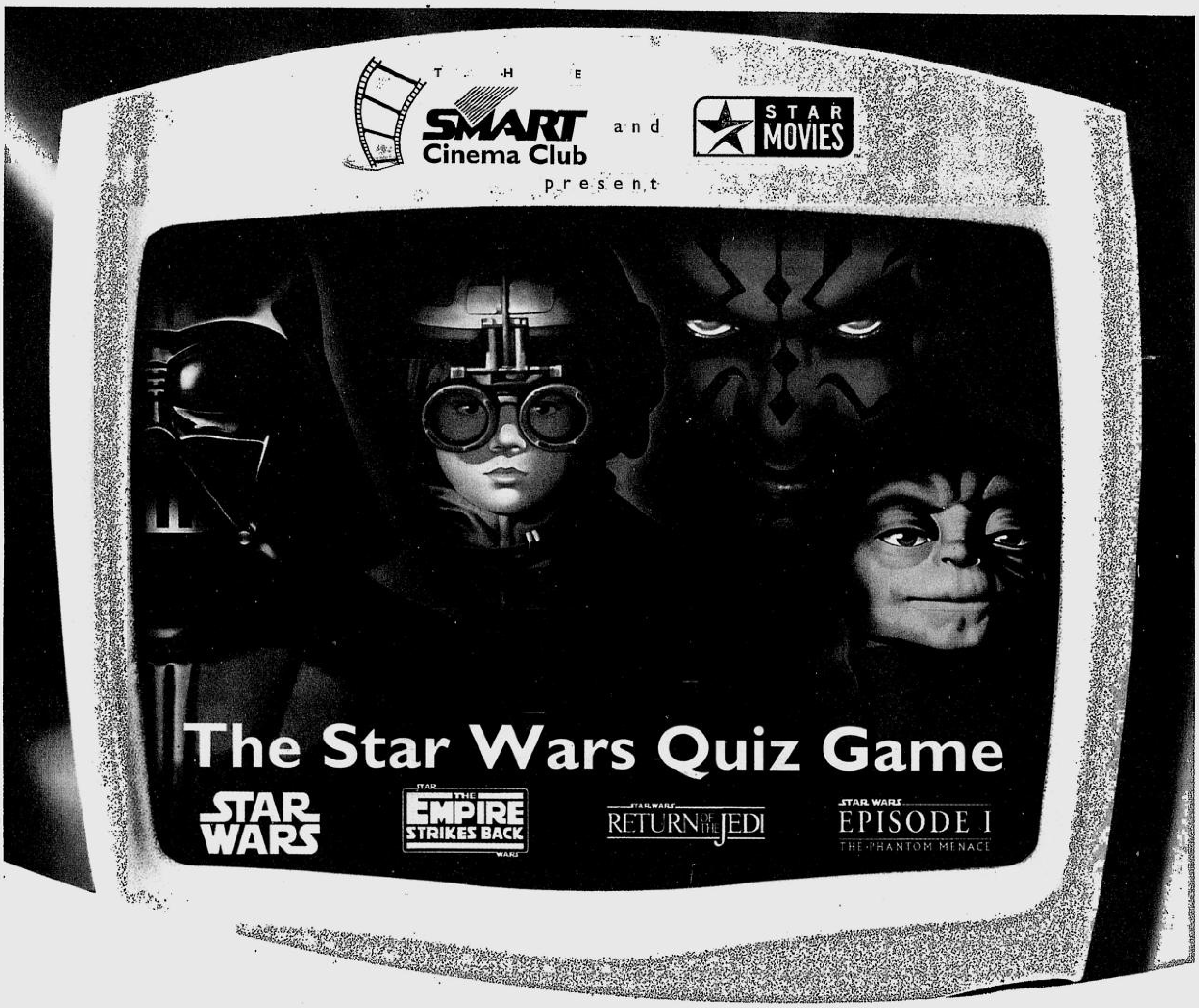
Doctors performed a medical procedure called Kasai portoenteros-tomy, but the operation failed to solve Nicole's condition, Edwin said.

Dr. Grace Uy, who specializes in pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition, suggested the liver transplant.

Edwin said Dr. Carlo G. B. Ramirez, chair of the department of organ transplantation of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, has expressed willingness to perform the operation.

Edwin can be reached at 933-3558 or 141-991147. *Cathy C. Yamsuan*

NICOLE


THE
SMART Cinema Club
and
STAR MOVIES
present
The Star Wars Quiz Game
STAR WARS
STAR WARS THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK
STAR WARS RETURN OF THE JEDI
STAR WARS EPISODE I THE PHANTOM MENACE

All Smart Cinema Club members will get a chance to win exciting STAR WARS collectibles just by playing the Star Wars Quiz Game. And if they are subscribers to cable providers carrying Star Movies, they may also join the Star Movies Raffle for a chance to win a trip for 2 to Sydney, Australia!

To join the Smart Cinema Club:
- Key in "JOIN CINEMA" and send to 239.
  Follow the instructions that will be sent to you.

To play the Star Wars Quiz Game and get a chance to win collectibles:
1. Key in "PLAY STAR" and send to 239.
2. You'll receive a trivia question and multiple choice answers about the Star Wars movies.
3. To answer, simply press "Reply" and key in the number (1,2,3 or 4) corresponding to your chosen answer and press "Send".
4. Each correct answer entitles you to one raffle entry.
5. You will receive a message acknowledging if you got the answer correctly.
6. To find out the total raffle points accumulated, key in "STARWARS" and send to 239.

Note: If you're already playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first to play the Star Wars Quiz Game.

To get a chance to win a trip for 2 to Sydney, join the Star Movies raffle:

1. To join, key in "STAR MOVIES" and send to 239.

2. You'll be asked to text in your cable operator and cable account no. to 239.

3. You will then receive a confirmation message.

Note: Exclusive for club members with cable providers carrying STAR MOVIES.

Star Wars Quiz Game Promo Mechanics:
1. All SMART GSM subscribers that are members of SMART Cinema Club are eligible to participate in the Star Wars Quiz Game and win a Star Wars Collectibles Package.
2. Every correct answer in the Star Wars Quiz Game during the promo period credits the registered subscriber one (1) raffle entry. A participant may only win once.

Star Movies Raffle Promo Mechanics:
3. All SMART GSM subscribers that are members of SMART Cinema Club and are current subscribers of any cable operator authorized to carry Star Movies International are eligible to participate in the Star Movies Raffle to get a chance to win a 4-day 3-night tour for 2 to Sydney, Australia.
4. Each subscriber will automatically receive one (1) computer-generated raffle entry when he registers for the Star Movies Raffle. The subscriber is entitled to only one (1) raffle entry.
5. One (1) eligible winner will be drawn during the promo period. Winner must have no delinquent accounts with his cable operator.
6. Winners for both raffles will be drawn on September 17, 2001, 10:00 a.m., at the Cable Technology Asia Corp. (CTAC) office, 2903-D West Tower, PSE Bldg., Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Draw will include all raffle entries collected up to 11:59 p.m. of September 15, 2001.
7. Winners will be notified by registered mail, text message, and a call to their registered mobile number.
8. For Metro Manila residents, their prizes can be picked up starting Sept. 17, 3:00 p.m., at the CTAC office, 2903-D West Tower, PSE Bldg., Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. For provincial winners, CTAC will send their prizes through registered mail.
9. Winners must present at least one valid ID with photo and signature to collect their prizes.
10. Promo period is from Sept. 2 to Sept. 15, 2001.

All text messages sent are P2.50 each.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2760. Series of 2001.

BUSINESS

Raul O. Marcelo, Editor ■ **Corrie S. Narisma**, Assistant Editor

Forex reserves steady at $14.2B in August

By Clarissa S. Batino

AFTER using about $100 million of the country's dollar reserves to defend the peso last month, the gross international reserves slid slightly to $14.2 billion in end-August from $14.315 billion the previous month.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura admitted that the central bank had used up about $100 million to intervene in the spot market and help prop up the peso during the weeks since late June to August when the exchange rate was very volatile.

The peso dropped to a day low of 54.335 to $1 on July 17 but aggressive intervention of the central bank allowed the peso to recover.

"We intervened and sold about $100 million but we had since recovered it back as we started buying at a low. The GIR was still at about $14.2 billion in August," Buenaventura said.

Since the Bangko Sentral claimed to have bought back the dollars it had sold, a central bank official said the drop in the dollar reserves was due to the payment of maturing obligations of the national government.

The official noted that even with a slightly lower gross reserves in August, the level was still sufficient to pay for more than four months' worth of imports of goods and services.

The Bangko Sentral said that its current GIR level was still more than twice the level of its short-term debt, contrary to earlier pronouncements made by several investment banks led by Barclays Capital.

Using an erroneous computation of the International Monetary Fund, Barclays Capital had concluded that the Philippines' dollar reserves were not enough to pay for its short-term debts.

The Fund had corrected its data and assured that the country's dollar reserves were sufficient to pay for debts maturing in the next 12 months.

The country's dollar reserves were usually affected every time the peso depreciates as dollar funds of the Bangko Sentral are used to defend the peso.

The central bank said it believed that the proceeds of the fresh borrowing by the national government should help boost the dollar reserves. Recently, the finance department sealed a $220-million dollar-swap with HSBC and up to $200 million in loans from Citibank. The government has also sold $250 million worth of bonds to Credit Suisse First Boston.

Since June, the government has raised $200 million from Credit Suisse and $100 million from JP Morgan Chase.

From an original GIR target of $16 billion, the central bank has asked the IMF to reduce the dollar reserves target this year to a range of $14 billion to $15 billion, or the same as last year's.

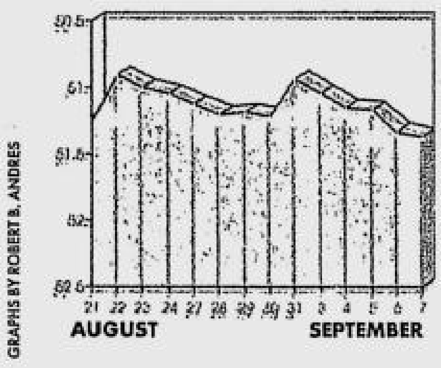
Comprised mostly of US dollars, the GIR is the total foreign currency holdings of the central bank. Gross reserves also include gold and special drawing rights, the currency used by the IMF.

The country still has an outstanding loan of $2 billion with the IMF which the government used during the Asian crisis to support its external accounts position.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱ 51.38 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 7, 2001

¥ 121.21 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 7, 2001

GOLD:$272.50/273.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 7, 2001

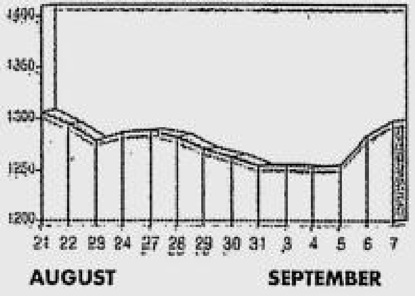
STOCK MARKET

Shares end mixed

SHARES closed mixed yesterday, with the main index up on bargain hunting in select blue chips, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 13.61 points, or 1.1 percent, at 1,297.35, adding to a 2.3-percent gain Thursday. The index has risen 3.6 percent since Wednesday.

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

AP

Gov't OKs 3 projects under Asean trade scheme

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MACAPAGAL administration has approved three projects under the Asean Industrial Cooperation (Aico) agreement involving trade with Thailand and Indonesia of more than $7 million worth of automotive parts and kitchen equipment.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said Malacañang was currently preparing an executive order to implement the preferred duties to be granted to the Aico projects of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp., Laguna Autoparts Manufacturing Corp., and Republic Asahi Glass Corp.

Under the proposed parts exchange of Mitsubishi, the Philippine plant would ship original equipment manufacturing parts for the Kuda, D&G and L300 models to Indonesia. In exchange, sister firm PT Krama Yudha Tiga Berlian Motors would ship parts and components for the L300, L200 and Adventure from Indonesia to the Philippines. The Philippine subsidiary will export $3.15 million worth of automotive parts while Indonesia will generate $3 million.

Laguna Autoparts would bring in $50,000 worth of starter motors from Lippo Autoparts Melco while the latter would ship $50,000 worth of starter motors and alternators to the Philippines.

Republic Asahi will export rear windshield safety glass worth $200,000 to Thailand while Thai Glass will bring in safety glass worth $487,000 for appliances to the Philippines.

Aico is the latest version of the region's industrial cooperation program, which began with the Asean Industrial Joint Venture and Brand-to-Brand Complementation scheme in the late 1980s.

The program is geared toward allowing multinational corporations to enjoy preferred duties on inter-regional trade of their products well ahead of the Asean Free Trade Area in 2003.

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	Wagon	₱ 1,710.000	₱ 855,000	₱ 47,500	ZERO% INTEREST
VECTRA 2.0L A/T	Sedan	₱ 1,165.000	₱ 582,500	₱ 32,362	ZERO% INTEREST
	Wagon	₱ 1,245.000	₱ 622,500	₱ 34,583	ZERO% INTEREST
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Extension approved by DTI-NCR

PLDT issuing $250-M bonds to repay maturing obligations

By Abigail L. Ho

LEADING telecommunications firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday announced a $250-million bond flotation to help pay for its short- and medium-term obligations that will be bunching up in the next three years.

However, the 10-year fixed notes will not be sufficient to cover PLDT's more than $600 million in debts that will be maturing next year up to 2004.

"I think they will be issuing another tranche. The $250 million may be enough to cover maturing obligations for 2002 and 2003, but they have a large debt that will be maturing in 2004. They have to find a way to cover that as well," Worldsec International Securities research head Patty de Pedro said.

She said, however, that the pressure to raise more money this year has already been eased as the $250-million flotation would cover two years' worth of maturing obligations.

As to when the possible next tranche would be offered had to depend on the movement of interest rates, she added.

PLDT earlier announced a possible $500-million flotation as this was the amount the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had approved.

"The amount may be a lot smaller than what was earlier announced because there may not be enough takers in the market," De Pedro said.

Mark Securities research head Manuel Cruz added that PLDT might have launched the bonds on a staggered basis so as to test the market.

"They have to test the market, find out if there is enough acceptability for the bonds," he said.

He added that the economic and political instability that the country has been experiencing had made investors more careful of where they put their money.

"Investors are looking for safety nets. PLDT itself may have apprehensions to fully launch the total $500 million in bonds. They were just forced to do so because of their dire need for capital," he said.

Cruz said the next tranche had to be floated by next year as he believed this $250-million flotation would only cover maturing obligations for next year.

The $60 million in maturing debts are a mixture of bank debts and bonds.

Shares of PLDT rebounded yesterday after the announcement of the bond float.

PLDT shares, which were the most actively traded at the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, rose by P10 to close at P545. The stock accounted for 15.6 percent of the market's total value turnover yesterday.

The recovery of this index heavyweight supported another day of technical rally for the main-share PSE composite index, which rose by 1.06 percent to close at 1,297.35 yesterday.

PLDT has $2.9 billion in outstanding obligations to date. Including the debts of its subsidiaries, the group's total borrowing stood at around $3.5 billion.

The company's shares have been battered in the PSE as well as on the New York Stock Exchange during the last few weeks on concerns over its debt refinancing as well as rumors of a possible management shakeout.

PLDT earlier secured a $150 million bridge financing facility from HSBC Plc., which likewise was a co-lead manager of its new eurobond float together with Credit Suisse First Boston.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said PLDT's rise yesterday was a technical rebound and it remained to be seen whether stock price would breach the P600 level.

Asked about PLDT's decision to brave the bond market, Roxas said: "I think it will be very expensive for them specially because they are issuing it at a fixed rate."

RFM, San Miguel to fast-track Cosmos deal

By Elena R. Torrijos

RFM Corp., the flagship company of the Concepcion family, and San Miguel Corp. have agreed to fast-track the sale of soft drink maker Cosmos Bottling Corp. to the food and beverage giant despite the legal challenge posed by Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco Jr.

In a letter to the Philippine Stock Exchange board and PSE chair Felipe Yap, RFM vice president and chief information officer Ramon Lopez said that in a progress review meeting Wednesday, representatives of both SMC and RFM "agreed to take measures to accelerate the completion of the due diligence and the drafting of the share purchase agreement."

Early last month, RFM and SMC signed a memorandum of understanding wherein the latter, together with the Atlanta-based The Coca Cola Co., would acquire 100 percent of Cosmos for an enterprise value of P15 billion subject to due diligence. The MOU set Sept. 15 as the target date for the signing of a definitive agreement.

Syjuco, through Jaz Cola Philippines and nine other corporations where he sits as chair, asked the court to rescind a memorandum of agreement entered into in November 1996 and other subsequent contracts that provided for the sale of his companies' beverage bottling operations and properties to a Cosmos subsidiary, Cosmos Visayas Bottlers Inc., for P1.168 billion.

Syjuco claimed that there was material breach of the sale contract given that Cosmos allegedly failed to pay tax obligations from the sale amounting to P261 million and P146 million in miscellaneous obligations.

The congressman was also able to get a temporary restraining order against the sale of Cosmos to SMC until Sept. 13.

Lopez pointed out that, from a technical viewpoint, the Syjuco case did not affect the SMC-RFM deal given that the deal concerns the sale of the "shares" to SMC while the court order stops the sale of assets by Cosmos.

"Based purely on the merits of the case, the lawyers of RFM and Cosmos are confident it will be determined by the court that there is no legal impediment to the progress of the SMC-RFM deal on Cosmos," Lopez said.

Syjuco claimed that the Concepcions defrauded the government when they allegedly created a dummy corporation—Cosmos Visayas Bottlers Inc.—on Nov. 8, 1996, the same day the sale agreement was executed by the two parties.

In addition, Syjuco alleged that two simulated documents were used by RFM—the "Cosmos" and "Fauna" contracts—that reportedly made an elaborate "shares for assets" scheme instead of reporting to the Bureau of Internal Revenue the simple sale of the Jaz Cola group.

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President

TOLL REGULATORY BOARD

NOTICE

Re: Intention and Proposals to Construct a Temporary Entry/Exit at km 72 + 172 northbound, Mexico, Pampanga, along the North Luzon Tollway

Central Country Estate, Inc. formally submitted its intention and proposals to construct the above mentioned Temporary Entry/Exit at km 72 + 172 northbound, North Luzon Tollway.

This notice is being published in compliance with the requirements of the Toll Regulatory Board for the Grant of Permit for the Construction of a Temporary Entry/Exit along Tollway facilities.

(Sgd) JAIME S. DUMLAO, SR.
Executive Director

Pacific Internet eyes partnership with PLDT

By Abigail L. Ho

PACIFIC Internet, the country's leading Internet service provider, is considering broadband service reselling deals with some of the country's telecommunications companies, including Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

"We're talking to PLDT to resell ADSL (asymmetric digital subscriber line) services," Pacific Internet Singapore chief executive officer Tan Tong Hai said in a news briefing on Thursday.

ADSL provides high speed, always-on Internet connectivity.

Tan said Pacific already has reselling deals in Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia and Thailand so it wants to get a deal in the Philippine market as well.

Its partners include Singapore Telecom, Hong Kong Telecom, Telstra in Australia and UCom in Thailand.

He said the prospective PLDT deal was still under negotiation, although he emphasized that Pacific was also in talks with other telecommunications firms.

"We hope to finalize a deal within the year. We'll already be installing test connections this month," Pacific Internet Philippines president Jojie Yap said.

In a reselling agreement, Tan said Pacific would get lines from telecommunications companies and use these to resell ADSL services to clients.

Tan emphasized that it would be mutually beneficial for telecommunications firms to partner with ISPs like Pacific because phone companies usually do not offer end-to-end services to their subscribers.

"They (telecommunications firms) may have to have many inter-company agreements because it is often difficult for them to understand applications. With Pacific, we have bundled all the solutions that a client may need, including infrastructure, Internet access, hosting services and e-services," he said.

Meanwhile, Yap disclosed that Pacific Philippines is currently in talks with smaller ISPs for possible consolidation deals in the future.

"Consolidation is important for the industry as a whole. We want to find other ISPs who may be interested in coming together (for a partnership)," she said.

She added that subscriber base and relationship with subscribers were the main criteria Pacific Philippines was looking for in possible partners.

Pacific Philippines accounts for the biggest outside-Singapore revenue contribution in the whole Pacific Internet group.

"It's my best performing unit. We're very proud to be doing business in the Philippines," Tan said.

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DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. is offering $250 million of 10-year fixed rate notes due 2011. The company intends to use the net proceeds to repay short and medium term debt.

* * *

ASIAN Terminals Inc. signed a loan agreement with nine banking institutions led by **DBS Bank Philippines Inc.** and **Deutsche Bank AG Manila Branch** to provide a revolving credit facility in the maximum aggregate principal amount of P1 billion.

* * *

THE LISTING of 110,825,000 common shares of **Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co.** is on Monday, Sept. 10.

* * *

MONDRAGON International Philippines Inc. last Sept. 5 finalized its agreement with **First Metro Investment Corp.** for their engagement as exclusive financial adviser of **Mondragon Leisure Resorts Corp.** and Mondragon International Philippines Inc.

* * *

MARSTEEL Consolidated Inc. disclosed that they don't know any material information which can affect the unusual movement in the trading of its shares last Aug. 30.

Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, Sept. 7, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	59.5	58.5	58.5	363,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29.5	28.5	28.5	61,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	208	209	208	209	104,000
Philippine National Bank	53.5	53.5	53.5	53.5	2,600
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	1	21	21	21	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	200
Union Bank of the Phil.	22	22.5	22	22	7,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1460	1465	1460	1460	860
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1150	1160	1150	1160	950
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32	32	32	20,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	310,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	645	645	645	645	500
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	1,800,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	535	555	535	545	118,930
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	9,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31	31	30.5	31	113,000
Manila Electric Co. B	45.5	45.5	45	45.5	1,375,700
Petron Corp.	1.72	1.76	1.72	1.74	953,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2	2	1.96	1.98	573,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	54,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	44,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	2,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	583,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.25	13.5	48,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	51,000
RFM Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.16	2.16	237,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	41	41	41	115,200
San Miguel Corp. B	55	56	55	56	487,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	70,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	5,606,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	342,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.25	700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	190,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	145,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	90,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.54	1.56	1.52	1.52	1,968,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	80,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.17	0.17	870,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	400,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.11	0.105	0.11	600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	50,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	29.5	292,600
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	130,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	640,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	2,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.7	540,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	5,000,000
Music Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.02	1.02	709,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	410,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5	5	5	5	26,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	90,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.28	0.31	50,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.27	1,150,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	140,000
Pryce Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	1,000,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	120,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.75	13	12.5	13	379,500
Steniel Manufacturing	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	530,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	760,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	32.5	33	32	32	775,700
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref.	11	11	11	11	300
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.24	1.7	1.24	1.7	10,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	10,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	47,400,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9	9,649,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	420,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.32	0.33	2,650,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	390,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.94	1.96	1.94	1.96	2,631,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	40,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.21	0.21	1,450,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	11,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.055	0.055	0.05	0.05	2,700,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.8	0.8	80,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	9,108,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.039	0.039	0.037	0.037	6,200,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	320,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co.B	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	60,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	50,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	600,000
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	17,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	37,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	210,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	553,210	47,639,055.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	242,096,130	259,003,455.00
PRO	29,129,000	111,453,260.00
Mining	6,630,000	313,600.00
OIL	58,840,000	276,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	337,265,340	418,731,470.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	515.81	DOWN 2.70
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,818.51	UP 11.79
PRO	511.95	UP 14.16
Mining	1,177.06	DOWN 6.84
OIL	1.45	UP 0.03
All Shares Index	761.05	UP 3.57
Composite	1,297.35	UP 13.61

NO. OF ADVANCES: 28; NO. OF DECLINES: 30; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 43; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 101; NO. OF TRADES: 1,912

CURRENCIES

Sep. 7, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.115325	1.000000	51.3110
Japan	Yen	0.009220	0.008267	0.4242
United Kingdom	Pound	1.625139	1.457100	74.7653
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143174	0.128370	6.5868
Switzerland	Franc	0.661482	0.593085	30.4318
Canada	Dollar	0.716007	0.641972	32.9402
Singapore	Dollar	0.637511	0.571592	29.3290
Australia	Dollar	0.582415	0.522193	26.7942
Bahrain	Dinar	2.958578	2.652661	136.1107
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.297420	0.266667	13.6830
Brunei	Dollar	0.635404	0.569703	29.2320
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000125	0.000112	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.025103	0.022507	1.1549
UAE	Dirham	0.303737	0.272331	13.9736
Korea	Won	0.000877	0.000786	0.0403
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.896600	46.0054
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.458424	23.5222
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136686	7.0135
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453791	0.406869	20.8769
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.065158	3.3433
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022226	1.1404
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000463	0.0238
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150797	7.7375
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004472	0.2295
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005389	0.2765
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022226	1.1404
Ireland	Punt	[illegible]	1.139147	58.4149

Heirloom recipes find home in this kitchen

SUCCESS STORY

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

AT LEAST two grandmothers, a former gardener, a chemist, and some young chefs and housewives are just a few of the budding entrepreneurs that The Blue Kitchen—A Specialty Food Shop has been supporting over the past five years.

These and other enterprising individuals rely on heirloom recipes or make their own concoctions to provide culinary works of art much to the delight of gourmet food lovers who have flocked to The Blue Kitchen since it opened its first outlet in 1996.

Friends and business partners Malou Fores and Michelline Suarez traced The Blue Kitchen's beginnings to 1995, when they used to supply pasta sauces and baked goods to Michelline's mom's store in Magallanes called The Little Farm.

They were content just supplying some of the goods until Michelline encouraged Malou to set up their own business. They named it The Blue Kitchen, inspired by Malou's kitchen at home, which was blue and the place where a number of the items sold at the store were born or tested.

"It did not take us a long time to put our concept into a reality. What took us a while was looking for the right place because some of the more established outlets at the time were cautious about letting new stores like ours leasing their space," Malou says.

First shop

After some searching, they finally found a 23-square-meter space at the Shangri-La Plaza mall and, much to their surprise, it was a hit almost from the start. There was apparently an untapped market just waiting for a different kind of food.

"That was an experience because there were times when we did not even have the time to comb our hair because of the number of people who came to the store. We even had some relatives go there to lend a hand," Malou says.

Malou and Michelline point to the quality of the food as the reason behind the growing number of customers who frequently order from The Blue Kitchen.

The Blue Kitchen offers a wide selection of regional specialties and international food that are ready to serve or with minimal preparation needed. It sells all types of *longganisa* from Lucban, Vigan, soft shell crabs from Bacolod and coffee from Benguet as well as different pasta sauces that can be readily put on top of freshly-boiled pasta.

The Blue Kitchen also offers unique desserts such as banana bread, mini ensaimadas and sugar-free apple pies for diabetics.

"We are targeting people who like to entertain at home but don't really have time to cook, or simply those who enjoy a wonderful, home-cooked meal," Michelline says.

The quality of the 100 or so items in the product list is preserved because these are based on tried and tested recipes handed down through generations or on their own concoctions.

Malou and Michelline also develop their own products, the latest of which are chunky fig and mango conserves that are good as spreads for melba chips or as sauces for roast chicken or roast turkey.

Heirloom recipes

"Our products are craftsman types of food that are done by hand and in small batches, which is why there is no commercial taste to the food. I guess people can really tell if food is cooked at home. We also do not use preservatives and only the finest, freshest and natural ingredients are used in the preparation of the food," Michelline says.

They add that they are happy that The Blue Kitchen has become a venue for those who feel they have some recipe to share with other food lovers in the market. At the same time, it has become a one-stop shop for gourmet food lovers who want to sample different kinds of specialties.

Before there was The Blue Kitchen, people usually relied on word-of-mouth to know who sold good food and where their products could be bought. With a shop at the Shangri-La Plaza and a new one at the Rockwell Power Plant Mall, these specialties are now exposed to more people.

"A lot of our clients are those who are adventurous or are willing to try something new. We also get a lot of our orders from people who want to send some Filipino food to their relatives or friends abroad," Malou says.

They believe that they can only retain the loyalty of their customers if they retain the quality, and this they can do by not selling their items in commercial quantities. The bottom line, they say, is to make sure that the food tastes good.

"We have ethnic food and we have Italian inspired food but the common denominator is that they all taste good and they are good for you," Malou says.

FRIENDS and business partners—Michelline Suarez and Malou Fores of The Blue Kitchen.

Gov't in $250-M private placement

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT said yesterday it had concluded a deal for a private placement of 15-year bonds worth a total of at least $250 million with Credit Suisse First Boston.

"The Department of Finance announced it has decided to pursue a structured financing (arrangement) with Credit Suisse First Boston," it said in a statement.

"The structured financing will raise minimum proceeds of $250 million at a cost competitive with the public market issue as originally proposed by CSFB. The bond will have a 15-year final maturity."

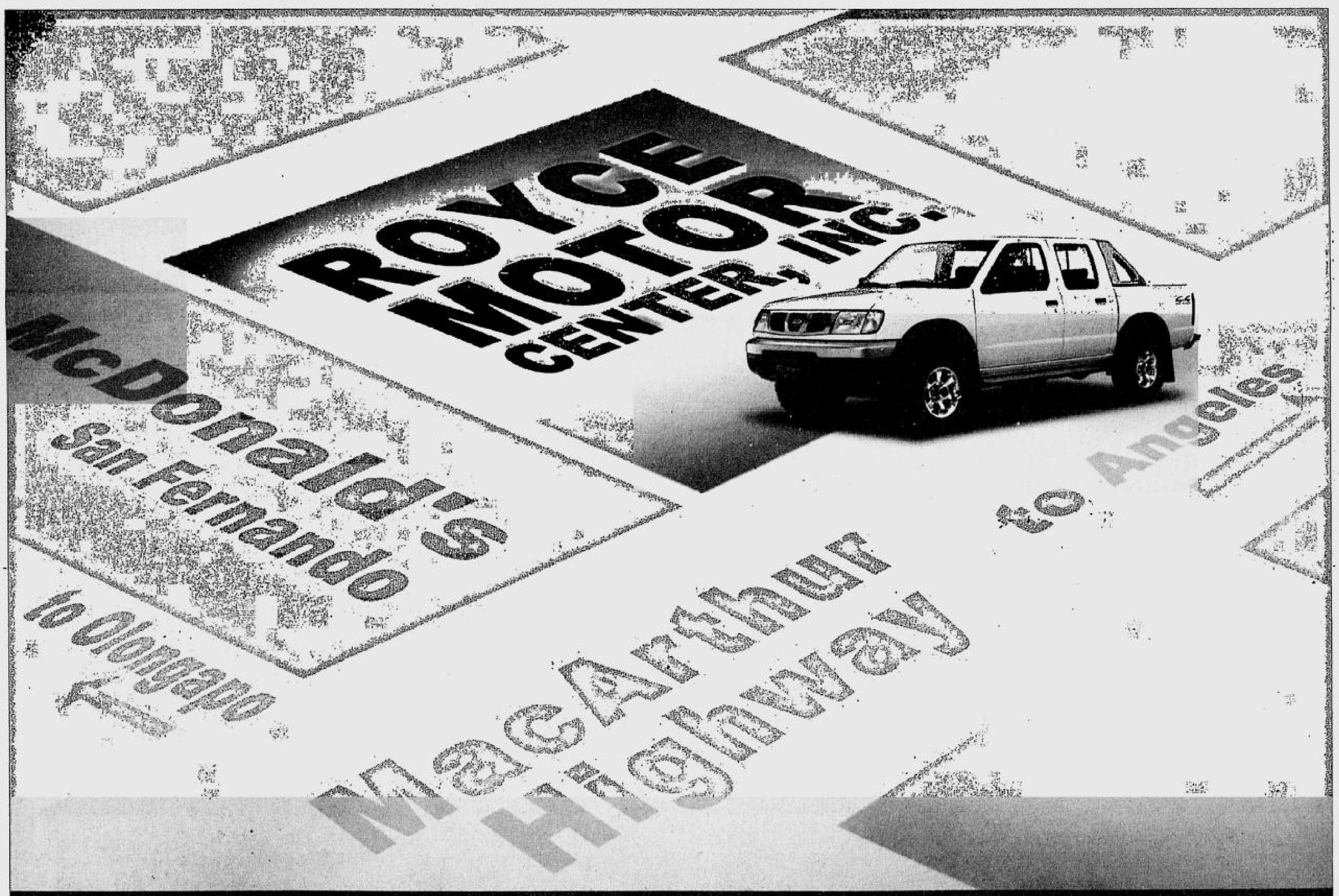
There was no word on what the interest cost to the government would be. CSFB was earlier named as sole bookrunner for a global bond issue worth at least $500 million the government planned to float this year.

The global bond float has been delayed pending regulatory approvals from the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

"While waiting for the US SEC, there are other financing options available to us to finance our budgetary requirements and this is one of them," National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said.

"We continue to look at all other proposals on the table."

Proceeds from the private placement with CSFB will fund the government's budgetary requirements this year, Edeza said.



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Writing on the wool

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THIS cute administration of Gloriaetta is having a hard time getting from Congress the anti-money laundering law. You can see the writing on the wall. It says good luck.

From what I gather, an influential Chinese-Filipino does not like the bill. For what selfish reason, even the Bangko Sentral is wracking its brains trying to find out. Being good for the country, the bill supposedly enjoys the support of all decent people.

It makes money laundering a crime. Thus the administration hopes to discourage local banks from dealing with crime syndicates. As it is, we are in the list of countries that the others deem as too hospitable to dirty money.

Working behind the scenes against the bill, however, is our favorite Chinese-Filipino bigshot. He is getting top officials of the administration worried. He is known to be close to people in all three branches of the government.

If he is not influential, how come he could get a favorable court ruling on one big acquisition? And if he has connections in the highest places of the judiciary, what more in the lowly committees of the legislature?

Yeap, it seems our hero is also a major stockholder in a small bank. If the dirty money bill is not passed, who knows what bright future awaits his bank?

* * *

IN Quezon City, a different lobby is raging. It involves a vocal group in an upscale subdivision called Greenmeadows. They don't want a school in their area.

The school is the Paref-Northfield, a private elementary and high school, which is setting itself up on land donated by Ortigas and Company. It so happens the land is located in the subdivision.

Idle for the past 20 years, the lot attracted the school organizers. And so they signed a memorandum of understanding with the city government early this year to build the school. Anyway, the lot was supposed to be an open space.

Under the law, open space can actually mean a lot of things. It can mean school, road, park, church, hospital, etc. In other words, it's something for the community.

For the past two years, it seems that the Paref-Northfield consulted with the residents of the subdivision on how best to set up the school. The school organizers also did not want to disturb the residents.

I don't know about you, but I am never disturbed by any school. Most of the time schools are quite, especially at night. In daytime, the children are always in the classroom, learning to write or to weave wool or something.

And when the children arrive or leave the school, the sound of them laughing or playing, the chatter of school, is hardly my concept of disturbance.

* * *

ANYWAY, it seems the group of residents lobbied City Hall against the opening of the school. Their biggest reason is, well, the school creates traffic.

But in this metropolis, what doesn't? Come on, guys, have mercy, because every activity known to man can create traffic. Churches cause traffic. It doesn't mean we should ban any place of worship in our neighborhood.

And it's even a school they are putting up there. I mean, it's not as if the city government is guilty of setting up a garbage dumpsite in the area or something. Imagine what the rest of us in this metropolis have to suffer! Garbage all over the place!

It's a school, by golly, and anyway you look at it, a school is good for the community. Traffic? There are many other ways to solve it, such as through road management and enforcement of rules, other than banning schools.

That is, however, if we still want to educate our children. The Paref-Northfield is even offering free education to 200 poor children. I even thought it was a noble project.

* * *

ON the jai alai issue, I recently reported to you what word was going around the stock market. And that was, some people who claimed to represent certain congressmen, were asking for P200 million. In exchange, they get a congressional franchise for the game!

Now it so happens that Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (3rd District of Bukidnon) chairs the House of Representatives committee on franchise.

I don't know what kind of magnet his committee has to attract congressmen, but in this Congress, it has some 75 members. The committee used to have only 40 members in the previous Congress.

Anyway, Zubiri wrote me a letter, expressing his admiration for my colu . . . no, wait a minute, that was another letter, and it came from my mother. Zubiri just said the following:

"I would like to inform you that this representation has maintained his stand to oppose the proliferation of any form of gambling in the country.

"I have endeavored that consistent with such a stand, I will not support any measure that will allow any entity to operate any form of gambling, such as jai alai."

All right, so who was peddling the P200-million congressional franchise? Hard to say! But based on word going around the Zubiri committee, it could be a congressman who is notorious for being a deal junkie.

RCBC approves ₱2-B capital hike

THE BOARD of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., a universal bank controlled by the Yuchengco family, approved on Tuesday a P2-billion increase in the bank's capitalization.

RCBC corporate information officer Cesar Rubio said RCBC would offer some P1.67 billion worth of stock rights at a par value of P10 each.

The bank will offer another P33 million worth of stock rights upon its shareholders' approval to raise its authorized capital to P9 billion from P8 billion, Rubio said.

"The offering is part of the bank's strategic capital build-up plans and is well-timed to increase its competitive strength and to allow it to pursue strategic opportunities," RCBC said in a letter to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

RCBC executive vice chair and chief executive officer Alfonso Yuchengco III said earlier that the bank would likely register a minimum 20-percent profit growth this year over last year's P370 million.

Yuchengco said RCBC would establish 15 to 20 additional overseas remittance offices by year's end to increase its remittance business by 25 percent this year.

New offices would be established in the United States, Europe and Asia, he said.

RCBC has already set up this year remittance offices in Florence, Vienna, and The Netherlands. It is planning to open additional offices in Hawaii, Chicago, Las Vegas, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

RCBC handled close to $600 million in remittances last year.

In the first quarter, the bank posted a 25-percent growth in remittances from the same period last year, keeping it on track to meeting its full-year growth target for the business.

Yuchengco said the expected earnings growth would be a result of the low interest environment and the stabilization of the bank's level of bad loans.

Elena R. Torrijos

US businessmen back anti-dirty money law

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE AMERICAN Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Inc. is urging Malacañang and Congress to push for the immediate passage of a bill toughening up the country's stand against money laundering.

In a statement, Amcham yesterday said this legislation was urgently required to maintain international standards for transparency within its banking system.

Amcham said that proposed amendments to the Bangko Sentral ng Philippines Act would strengthen the central bank's authority to examine bank books particularly for accounts above P50 million when irregularity is detected.

It said the changes would make money laundering a crime, eliminate bank deposits, track down suspicious transactions, and harmonize deposit secrecy with global standards.

On Thursday, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho revealed that Congress was in a fast-track mode to pass a law on money laundering before the Sept. 30 deadline set by an international agency.

The Philippines, Russia and Nauru are on a list of nations that have been deemed as uncooperative to the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force's efforts to clamp down on money laundering worldwide.

The Philippines could face sanctions from its failure to meet the Sept. 30 deadline set by FATF. These sanctions could mean more difficulties to Philippine traders in closing their transactions with their overseas partners.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, on the other hand, earlier asked the Paris-based anti-money laundering group to extend the deadline.

The FATF is an inter-government agency formed by the Group of Seven industrialized nations committed to stamping out money-laundering activities.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura warned that failure to pass the law would put Philippine banks at risk of "unnecessary scrutiny" and breach in confidentiality.

Buenaventura said the country would also face additional sanctions that could serve as "a potential disincentive for investment in and business with Philippine companies."

"This means that your normal business transactions may be considered or treated as possibly suspicious, in many cases discouraging foreign parties from investing or doing business with Philippine companies," Buenaventura said.

Italian firm eyes more projects

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ITALIAN firm that built the recently completed $640-million Casecnan multipurpose power facility is looking into the possibility of putting up more infrastructure projects in the country.

Armando de Rossi, regional director of CMC de Ravenna Asia, said in a news briefing yesterday the firm was eyeing a flood management control project in Lake Mainit in Mindanao.

"We have completed studies with our own funds and we will be negotiating with the proper government agency soon," De Rossi said.

He said the proposed Lake Mainit facility would help save residents of Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Norte from the yearly flooding that cost them millions of pesos in damages to livelihood.

The official said the project cost of the proposed flood management control project was P1 billion or between $40 million and $45 million.

"Of that amount, we are likely to shoulder $28 million in construction work," De Rossi said.

He added that CMC de Ravenna was also involved in the Kalayaan portion of the $450-million Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan hydropower project in Laguna.

"We are shouldering $50 million worth of construction work and we expect the project to be completed by 2003," De Rossi explained.

CMC de Ravenna also has a part in the Agus 7 hydropower project in Iligan City and the Agus 3 and Matling power projects in Lanao del Sur.

The Casecnan multipurpose facility, which is set for commissioning within the month, involves two dams that would divert water from the Cagayan and Taan rivers in Nueva Vizcaya to the Pantabangan reservoir in Nueva Ecija.

The diverted water goes through a 28-kilometer long, 6.3-meter wide tunnel that traverses the Caraballo mountains.

Aside from generating 150 megawatts of electricity, the facility was expected to help irrigate 65,000 hectares of farmland.

CMC de Ravenna's century-old, Italy-based mother company is the largest construction cooperative in Europe and the third in the world.

The company specializes in building roads, tunnels, bridges, ground level and underground railway systems, airport runways, dams and water supply systems among others.

DoE, Mirant sign MOA for energy project

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy signed yesterday a memorandum of agreement with US-based Mirant Corp. that would provide electricity to some 1,000 barangays, mostly in Luzon.

This was in line with the DoE's commitment to provide electricity to at least four barangays a day or 1,500 barangays by June 2000. Most or 800 of these barangays are in Luzon, 100 in Visayas and 100 in Mindanao.

The MOU underscored the DOE's thrust to strongly encourage private sector participation in the government's O-Ilaw rural electrification program.

DoE was able to develop an innovative financing scheme wherein Mirant can advance the funding for this project from the mandated 50 centavos/kwh that independent power producers (IPPs) are required to donate to their host communities.

IPPs are enjoined to provide stable electricity supply to villages near or within the provinces where their power facilities are located. The IPP may donate or advance the electrification funds to undertake energy-related projects needed by the host communities.

The signatories to this MOA were Energy Secretary Vincent S. Perez Jr., Frederick D. Kuester, Mirant managing director and CEO for the Asia-Pacific, National Power Corp. president Jesus N. Alcordo, National Electrification Administration Administrator Manuel Luiz Sanchez and some 30 electric cooperatives.

President Macapagal-Arroyo witnessed the signing in Heroes Hall in Malacañang Palace.

Mirant Philippines, formerly Southern Energy, is the largest private producer of electricity in the country with more than 2,500 megawatts of installed capacity. Its participation is the latest reiteration of the company's continued commitment to a program of corporate social responsibility to our nation.

"Our government has committed to electrify an average four barangays per day between July 1, 2001 and June 30, 2002 or a total of 1,500 barangays. Today, we are committing the electrification of some 1,000 barangays to concretize the President's promise in her first State of the Nation Address last July," the secretary said.

"Lighting up the whole countryside is a daunting task but we can do it if the private sector and the government will join in partnership, combine its efforts, talents and resources. Electrification spurs development in the countryside. The agreements we have just signed are the foundations upon which we shall be building bridges to move our people out of poverty. I call on other IPPs to participate and help our country by bringing the economic growth filter down to rural areas," the secretary stressed.

RP firms strive to match corporate values with staff

By Mae R. Legaspi

YOU enter the building of a newly established dotcom company for a job interview. A receptionist in blue jeans greets you. On the way to the personnel office, you notice a frame on the wall that says: "Our Corporate Values: Creativity, Innovation, Excellence." You meet an employee dressed in purple jeans, pink shirt and several-colorful clips on her hair. You are led into a wide room abuzz with activity. You notice that the dividers separating the work teams provide a sense of private space but they are low enough to allow easy communication with others in the room.

You see three people in a huddle with the dividers between them. Finally, you get to the HR manager's office. No doors. The only provisions for privacy are the dividers taller than those found between the staff's desks. You feel the informality, creativity and accessibility being communicated by the whole office setup.

The physical setup, how customers are greeted and even how the people are dressed, point to the values that a company adheres to.

What are corporate values and culture? What is their relevance to the organization and to the individual employee?

Values and culture

Personal values are beliefs or ideals that guide our lives. A new graduate may say, "I want to impact people and to contribute to the fulfillment of their purpose in life," Someone else may say, "Reward my performance. That will motivate me to excel." Another person may enthuse, "A sense of satisfaction in what I do is more important to me than a promotion." Our values are reflected in our priorities. We act on them consistently and repeatedly.

Company values, on the other hand, reflect what a company considers important. They determine a company's approach to the achievement of its goals. Integrity, customer service, speed, innovation, teamwork are some values that companies subscribe to. Values determine how an organization will pursue its goals. For instance, a company that values integrity may refuse to accept a project if they are asked to declare an overvalued budget by their client. Just like personal values, company values will be reflected in the company's priorities.

Company values evolve into a company culture. Company culture embodies the shared values, beliefs, and assumptions of an organization. It describes the way an organization will act to fulfill its vision.

It will not be surprising for a company that considers the importance of the family to include a budget for a day-care center. They may also continually try to maintain a work-life balance among their employees.

The employee and organization

Increasingly, organizations are looking to hire employees who, aside from meeting competency requirements, would also share the company values and culture.

For instance, an organization that values company loyalty will think twice before hiring an employee focused on self-interest. Similarly, a company that emphasizes the value of teamwork will be wary of those who tend to be individualistic in their approach to work.

On the flip side, more and more individuals are looking to work for companies that share their values. Indeed, it is to an employee's interest to join an organization that espouses her own value system, as she is then more likely to achieve greater job satisfaction in such an environment.

It is therefore not surprising that more organizations see the need for psychometric tools in recruitment and in developing their human resource.

Psychometric tools such as the Value System Profile elicit information on a person's values and value-based behavior. This tool is helpful for the individual as it provides relevant information about herself and validates what she has presumed to be her values. The high validity and reliability of this instrument also help those involved in recruitment to make decisions with greater confidence and success.

Of course, a company may still decide to hire someone who does not share the company values and culture after considering the applicant's other assets such as skills and experience. Management may then use the information culled from the instrument to help the hiree

become gradually aligned with the company values.

Conclusion

Personal values and corporate culture enable people to be more motivated and productive in their jobs. Aligned personal and corporate values are critical to an employee's personal fulfillment in the work place and to organizational success.

Hence, it will be beneficial for the organization to consider an applicant's values before hiring her and it will likewise be to the individual's benefit to consider the values and culture of an organization before accepting a job offer.

(Mae Legaspi is a consultant for Oti Consulting Philippines Inc., a regional consulting firm specializing in Organization Transformation.)

Singaporeans told to brace for changes

SINGAPORE—Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew has warned Singaporeans to accept that there will be radical changes in the economy, including job insecurity, as global competition intensifies.

Speaking to trade unionists late Thursday amid mounting layoffs in the manufacturing sector, he vowed there would be no let-up in the government's drive to prepare the island state for the challenges ahead.

Singapore's founding father and first prime minister said policies that gave Singlaporeans one of the highest standards of living in Asia would no longer guarantee success in the global environment as developing countries join the race, particularly China.

"We have been too secure, too successful doing it the same way. I am not sure we can continue doing it the same way," said Lee.

There are no easy answers to the challenges confronting the tiny country of 4 million, the 77-year-old statesman widely credited for Singapore's transformation into a regional economic powerhouse said.

"I'm sorry to give you hard answers because these are hard questions. If I tell you all is well, then I would have done you a disservice," he said in response to questions from members of the labor movement.

Lee, a union lawyer in his younger days, reminded Singaporeans that economic success was achieved because government officials "take hard decisions and implement them in order to have a good life for everyone."

He highlighted the economic threat from China as the world's most populous nation continued its rapid climb up the industrial ladder and stands on the brink of entry into the World Trade Organization. *AFP*

Bush administration drops fight to break up Microsoft

WASHINGTON—In a dramatic shift, President George W. Bush's administration has abandoned the Clinton-era effort to break up Microsoft Corp., suggesting instead a lesser antitrust penalty that could still force changes to the company's new Windows operating system.

The Justice Department also dropped charges that the software giant illegally hurt competitors by tying or bundling separate features, like a Web browser, to its flagship computer operating system.

Microsoft has hotly contested those charges because the company's strategy calls for integrating more new features into products like the new Windows XP operating system, due in stores next month.

Officials said the legal shift was not an overture to Microsoft to settle. They suggested the government would ask the new judge handling the antitrust case to review the Windows XP software and seek a penalty that would ensure the company would not operate as an illegal monopoly in the future.

But the news that reverberated from Wall Street to Silicon Valley was the decision to stop trying to break up an American corporate icon that helped fuel the technology revolution of the 1990s.

The 19 states that joined the government in suing Microsoft and seeking its breakup acquiesced, saying an appeals court decision earlier this summer would make a breakup more difficult to pursue.

"This is an industry that moves incredibly fast," said Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller. "The case has gone on for quite some time now. It was time to move as quickly as we could to remedy."

Microsoft reacted with cautious optimism. "We remain committed to resolving the remaining issues in the case," spokesperson Vivek Varma said.

Investors, however, showed some concern that the penalties the Bush administration would seek might still affect or delay next month's planned debut of Windows XP—which many on Wall Street hoped would help invigorate the sluggish technology industry.

The Justice Department said it made the about-face to streamline the case and bring it to an end as quickly as possible. The goal, it said, was to "obtain prompt, effective and certain relief for consumers."

The department said it would still seek a penalty that would open the operating system market to competition.

To that end, the government proposed a penalty similar to some interim penalties imposed by the original trial judge, US District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson.

Those would, among other things, stop Microsoft from making certain exclusive deals with partners, force computer manufacturers to keep specific icons and programs on the Windows computer desktop, and give other companies more access to Windows blueprints.

Howard University law professor Andy Gavil said such restrictions could affect Windows XP, which had been completed by programmers but would not reach stores until October. *AP*

US not yet ready for IMF to assess banks

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund wants to assess the US banking system because of its importance in the global financial system but while the US government is willing to undergo the appraisal, it won't do so yet and won't say when it might be prepared to.

Earlier this year, the IMF's decision-making executive board decided that countries of major systemic importance, such as the United States and Japan, should become the focus of the fund's financial sector assessment program that monitored the strength of domestic banking systems.

"We do not believe that the participation in an FSAP would represent the best use of international resources," a US government official told Reuters. "We would be ready to consider possible inclusion in the program at a later date if it is appropriate."

Canada is the only leading industrialized country that has completed the program, although the United Kingdom has indicated it is prepared to take part.

Japan was reportedly reluctant to participate in the assessment, but after a meeting on Wednesday between IMF Managing Director Horst Koehler and Japanese Financial Services Agency chief Hakuo Yanagisawa, the country agreed to comply.

A source at the IMF said because of the size of the US financial system, the assessment was viewed by management as being a high priority.

"Directors considered that, in light of the importance of the United States as a global capital market and recent legislation in the financial area, it would be useful if the United States participated in an FSAP," the IMF said in its latest report on the US economy, released in August. *Reuters*

Korea FDI tumbles, year target at risk

SEOUL—South Korea's foreign direct investment plummeted 17.2 percent year-on-year in August, threatening to put a government target of $15 billion for 2001 out of reach as high-profile corporate deals show only halting progress.

Analysts said the decline mostly reflected a cyclical slowing in the global economy, but the country's frequent labor disputes and lack of transparency in accounting practices had also deterred aggressive investment.

South Korea's foreign investment plans fell to $1.24 billion from $1.50 billion in the same month of last year, bringing the total for the first eight months to $8.66 billion, the Commerce Ministry said.

The country posted $9.37 billion in foreign investment plans for the same period of 2000.

"The target (for FDI) might not be reached if hyped-up sale deals do not go through," said Huh Chan-guk, an economist at Korea Economic Research.

"But the downtrend in foreign investments reflects a cyclical downturn in the economy and does not mean foreign investors have a negative view on Korea," Huh said.

A global slowdown had led foreign investors to adopt a conservative stance, not only towards Korea but across the world, economists said. But Korea's labor disputes and a lack of transparency have also discouraged a flood of investment. *Reuters*

Telecom plays make HK Asia's worst performer

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index is one of the worst-performing benchmark share indices in the world so far this year and its large proportion of telecommunications stocks means it is likely to be a laggard for some time to come.

"Around 30 percent of the Hang Seng is comprised of telecommunications stocks, and this sector has been among the biggest dogs this year globally," said Markus Rosgen, chief strategist for Asia at ING Barings.

And uncertainties over the telecommunications industry are likely to continue to weigh on the Hang Seng for the rest of the year.

It is down more than 29 percent so far this year and has slid about 11 percent since mid-August, hugely under-performing the US blue chip Dow Jones industrial average year to date.

No other benchmark index in the region, including Japan's Nikkei 225 index, contains such a high proportion of telecommunications-related stocks.

The mainland's two cellular phone operators, China Mobile and smaller rival China Unicom, together constitute 17.7 percent of the Hang Seng's market capitalization. *Reuters*

The first **Japanese IT Standardization Examination of the Philippines** is ready and set for **September 9, 2001.**

As you may already have a lot on your mind this close to exam day, we would like to help make sure that everything goes well for you. Here are some tips and important reminders -

1. Whatever happens, do not forget to bring your admission slip and valid ID/s.
2. Be at the examination venue at least 1 hour before the scheduled time of the examination. This will give you time to relax, freshen up or do a last minute review.
3. If possible, try and plan alternate routes that you will take in going to the venue. Traffic is always unpredictable and planning ahead helps. Also, if you are not familiar with the location of the venue, coming in early will be helpful as this will reduce the stress burden you will carry to the examination center.

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4. Bring several pre-sharpened pencils or mechanical pencils.
5. Bring snacks and drinking water. You may not have enough time to look for these items once you've psyched yourself for the exam. (For Cebu: No canteen service on Sundays)
6. Wear comfortable clothing and consider bringing an umbrella or jacket. The weather is unpredictable, hot and humid or wet and windy. Better prepared than sorry as they say.
7. Lastly, relax and be loose.

Good luck to all.

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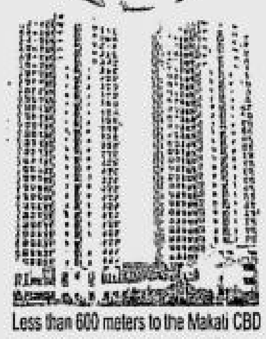

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Crisanta Tower 634-1212

RENSANC 8M 219sqm 3743711

RUSH! Renaissance 2000 DBO 2br+2tb 09178143792

QUEZON CITY

A Modern Office - Residential Condominium

ONE BEATRIZ TOWER
nr Ateneo NCBA Mkt hosp R 50T 70T Move In 3yrs 0%Int/ 5yr w/Jacussi sauna pool dresser cab Rhood Cell Big disc for CASH!
MOVERS DEV'T & MKTG.
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C-5 Mind'nao Ave QC 680T & Up/ Unit 3yrs to pay 0% Int 9256340 / 09185079799

CUBAO Condo P1.3"EZ"term Rent 2 Own Swap Lot Car C-Share 9126976/ 9120647

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RUSH! TSora 3BR+1md 2TB P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792

Sale T-House QC 725-0041

Santol LA300m² 4br 7808605

UNIT 9A I-BURGUNDY PLACE CONDO KATIPUNAN AVE., QUEZON CITY
MARILENA GARDEN-TOWNHOUSE MARIPOSA ST., QUEZON CITY DIRECT BUYERS ONLY CALL FLOR 7434154 OFFICE HOURS

SAN JUAN

Platinum 1 FA-176 634-1212

VARIOUS AREAS

MAKATI CONDOS
ROCKWELL
LEASE: 2BR 3BR Bare, SF, FF, 80K to 175K /mo. SALE: 1BR, 2BR, 3BR P10M, P13M,P21M Lito 800-4748 • 0917-3762258

WSIDE NMLA 5.5M 2BR UP PASIG AJT 3.5M 9166177

MEMORIAL LOT

Magnificat F. Boni 634-1212

FACTORY/WHSE

W/houses 4sale/rent 6427246

FARM/FISHPEN

Baras Farm 1.5H 036-0462

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

3665197BRIONES 7AVE 2.8 S/T

MAKATI

STUDIO Size 5T T896-18-20

MANILA

1536 NR UST 09197953573 ALYS 7419295 NENA

PASIG

2BR 6331040 TETA

QUEZON CITY

Concrete 2BR nr Kamuning Mkt No.63 K5 St QC P11T Pls Call 941-3550

HOUSE

MAKATI

3bdr mds rm garden San Miguel Vill Mkt 8967753

PARANAQUE

Sunvalley Paranaque 4BRS 3TB 2Sty •850-9507•

QUEZON CITY

10 Cecilville W-Plains 5BR 5TB 4CG S-Pool 633-0164

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

KWOOD Mkti 3BR3TB maid qr 20T prkg 2.5T 8996632 Irene

PASIG

3BR Renaissance 2000 Fully Furn 5Min From Megamall ADB 0917-8394462

Townhouse 4BR 2TB 1H²o Tank 2Garage Rosario Pasig P15T /mo. DR. Lao 0917-8422134 • 655-0691 • 726-0305

QUEZON CITY

54sqm 3BR nr UDMC 1.3M /9T 7127366/09179831347

Maginhawa St.,Teachers Vill 2Br2Tb FA65m² Condo Unit only P16T net monthly rental T927-1316 Cel-09172516362

VALENCIA HILLS
P25T Grge 2BR 0916-3190827 • 413-4445

SAN JUAN

GHills Std Sem Furn w/ Fon Call 7267615 09177920456

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Rent/Sale: Orchard T'hse Dasma, Cavite, FF, 3Stry 3br+attic P50T/mo or P5M Tel. 533-5525 • 0917-7359651

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FOR LEASE
NEW BLDG. W/ELEV.
1ST Flr - 195 & 109 m²
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(good for rest./food chain)
3rd-6th Flr - 650m²@
(good for computer schools)
FRONTAGE - 36.5mtr x 18mtr
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In front of McDonalds PRC
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2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

BUSINESS RENTAL

G/F Ayala Offices T818-1696

MAKATI Nr BUENDIA Ptamo 38/65/62/185m² 1st Class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs.

Nr Kamuning Mrkt 9289555

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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Office Bldg & Warehouse Flr Areas From 265m² Up Approx 800 Mtrs Form Ninoy Aquino Intl Airport • 853-6159 /0919-8050474 DBO

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PansolHotSpring Prvt 776-7507

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

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'97 316i A1 Fresh 942-3925

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Laser '84 P30T neg. Call 4260497•4336196

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★ P235T up★
Grace, Besta, Pregio
good running condition loaded
732-9805 742-3374

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MB100 van 1996 model P320 neg. •Kris 8111165/8336386•

NISSAN

'95 Safari 0917-5303012

VOLKSWAGON

VW Kombi'78 P35T Call Jun Of-8441502 C-09193325587

VAN/PICK-UP

DEL VAN L300 1991 100T Call GLO BISMAC 8823355

BUSES/TRUCKS

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CARS FOR RENT

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Starex L300·MB100 Coaster Bus Cars 631-3496 • 637-7396

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Van Coaster Bus 913-91-23

Close Alum Van 9345378

HIACE L300 Urvan 8257135

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

MB100/Hi-Ace Call 641-1859

NEW PREGIO L300 8254058

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

SELF-DRIVE
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

U Drive Cars Vans 8006595

UDrive w/drivr Cars/L300/ MB/4x4/Bus 8908667-69

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

Cocker Spaniel 373-0657

ALL NURSES

(IHS) Integrated Health Services, the industry leader in post-medical care with 350 facilities across the United States is offering

FLY NOW-PAY LATER PROGRAM

To All Qualified Registered Nurses

We provide:
- ✓ Processing of Immigrant Visa
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For more information visit us at
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31 Visayas Ave. corner Road 1
Quezon City

or you may e-mail us at:
yourcareerlink@yahoo.com
Phone: (02) 455-3856/455-4358
Text: 0919-845-3481
0919-618-3047

Just bring two (2) clear copies of the following requirements:
1. CGFNS Certificate*
2. B.S.N. diploma
3. PRC license
4. Picture page from passport
5. Board Exam rating
6. Transcript of records
7. Resumé with 2x2 pictures
8. Work certificates

*those who are just waiting for their cgfns result may also apply.

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

Male ROTT Pups CHL 3.5mos. 363-3933 • 0917-8199948

POMERANIAN F 5mos. 631-7777

Shitzu Pup 3mos 655-6617

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

10#20#100 KVA Gen 3610215

Farm Tractor 55T 3672002

Truck Trailer Chassis 4sale: 40' flatbed 190T, 40'Combo 145T,strait 40' 125T 2874883

HOME APPLIANCE

MGC CHF Range GE FRZR Whrlpl Wshng Mchn 725-0041

National Split Type yr 2000 good as bnew P22T 3ton Carrier Condura 99 P35T ceiling mounted Packg 5ton P55 7.5tons P60T 9219465 4262970 4554061

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BILLIARD Table & Supplies SM Fairview 3/F Storyland 0919-6108798

B.Table B'new w/accessories •8014494/8020566•

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T complete acc's •8618714/16 •8613123 •8613125•

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8390004

MISCELLANEOUS

FROZEN TUNA 7151193

Hearing Aid 3.8T 7800807

ID strap LogoPin 656-8605

Phone Monitor 7800807

zed

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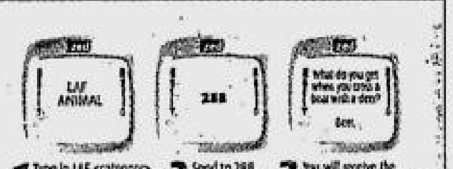

1 Type in LAF <category> Ex. LAF ANIMAL
2 Send to 288.
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www.zed.com

LAGUNA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
List of Vacant Position

ENGINEER 1 (2) - Bachelor's Degree, preferably in Natural and Environmental Sciences, Master's degree or units an advantage. Ability to write clearly and concisely, good command of English both oral and written, computer literate (windows based programs and applications).

Write or call : Personnel Section *(not later than Sept. 17, 2001)*
Laguna Lake Development Authority
Rizal Provincial Capitol Compound,
Pasig City

Tel. No. 638-5332
637-6289
637-9053

NOTICE OF LOSS

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED BY MGM Food & Commodities Corporation that on September 5, 2001 a Booklet of Official Receipt with Series 64005 to 64050 has been stolen.

THE COMPANY WILL NOT HONOR AND WILL NOT BE HELD LIABLE IN ANY AND ALL TRANSACTIONS ENTERED INTO USING THE SAID OFFICIAL RECEIPT.

(PDI - Sept. 8, 2001)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

• WANTED ASAP •
Professional Company
Driver Tel#:8234573-74

FEMALE

WANTED BSEED TEACHER
CALL 665-0609

MALE/FEMALE

Accounting Clerk 727-8476
Asst. Manager 727-8476

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

All Around Beautician
984-1155 ; 454-1405

CARE GIVER T5280722

Clerk Sec. 7136116 Ruth

DECS-NCR Division of Marikina OSEC-DECSB TCH2-36120; 47643;4771?

Ofc Staff 01

WTD: Yaya/H.Maids/EngChi Tchr, Fam. Cook 6604689

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

JOB HIRING !!!
LEMY JEWELRY PHILS. INC.
Factory Worker, Driver
Sales Executive 18 - 24 yrs.
with pleasing personality
T#s(049)5491095 / 5491377

QC/Sales Coordinators
Male 5'8" /Female 5'5" willing to be trained Coll. Lev./ Bring bio-data 2 Photos Tel 534-5926/27

Wanted Immediately!!
SALES AGENTS
M/F, Execellent Commision with or w/o Exp. Bring Bio-data, NBI, 2x2, Picture Tel.# 534-5926 or 27

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW 4 Tiange Bazar3738821

PUBLIC NOTICES

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Trvl Oppor/Earn Fr Home 8531008 2477469 5252230 Pgr 6343333 ID# 227933

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Shake Powders 823-6212

Work From Home 8937903

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Tiangge Stalls for Xmas Supermarket Space 300sqm across LTO, Q.C. Call 925-7212 • 925-7365 • Cel(0917)8480612

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **NELLIE M. VILLAROJO** was extrajudicially settled among her heirs per Doc. 59, Book I, Page 14, Series of 2001 Notary Public Lilia B. Pilares-De Vera
(PDI-Sept. 1, 8 & 15, 2001)

DYNAMIC, PROFESSIONAL LEADERS

LEAD THE 21st CENTURY

- QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER
- QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR
- WAREHOUSE MANAGER
- WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR
- ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
- COMPANY DRIVER
- TRAILER DRIVER

Qualified applicants are requested to hand-carry their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 photo every Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. only at:

KANEPACKAGE PHILIPPINE INC.
#5 Ringroad Light Industry & Science Park of the Philippines II
Brgy. La Mesa, Calamba, Laguna with tel. nos. (049) 545-7166 to 69
Look for Ms. Katherine Opulencia

National Power Corporation
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Asset Disposal Project

INVITATION TO BID

for the Disposal through Sale of

2 x 100 MW POWER BARGES

"as is, where is"

DATE OF BIDDING: **SEPTEMBER 25, 2001**

The National Power Corporation of the Philippines invites interested parties to bid for the following NPC Power Barges on an "as is, where is" basis:

ITEM DESCRIPTION	MIN. BID PRICE
LOT 1 - 100 MW POWER BARGE PB-117 consisting of two (2) x 50 MW MAN B&W Diesel Engine, type: 12K90MC-S; 2 units 59,016 KVA Generators at 13.8 KV, 60 Hz; nominal barge output: 100 MW at 13.8 KV; including auxiliaries and corresponding spare parts, located at Bgy. Sta. Ana, Nasipit, Agusan Del Norte.	US $ 85.0 M
LOT 2 - 100 MW POWER BARGE PB-118 consisting of two (2) x 50 MW MAN B&W Diesel Engine, type: 12K90MC-S; 2 units 59,016 KVA Generators at 13.8 KV, 60 Hz; nominal barge output: 100 MW at 13.8 KV; including auxiliaries and corresponding spare parts, located at Maco, Davao Del Norte	US $ 85.0 M

Interested eligible bidders may obtain bidding documents and technical specifications upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand US Dollars (US$2,000.00)** at the Office of the Asset Disposal Project, 3rd Floor, Building No.1, National Power Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

A pre-bid conference shall be held at 10:00 AM on **September 20, 2001** at the NPC Solarium, Building 1, NPC Head Office, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives at 2:00 PM on **September 25, 2001** at NPC Diliman Office. Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount of bid.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein, and to accept only such bids as may be considered advantageous to the Government.

Additional information may be obtained from Mr. Samuel V. Lomuntad Jr. or Mr. Levi C. Arabelo at telephone nos. (632) 921-3382 / (632) 924-5384 and (632) 922-3370, respectively, and at fax no. (632) 921-2514.

(Sgd.) **RIZALINO G. SANTOS**
Chairman, Task Force for the Sale of
100 MW Power Barge PB-117 AND PB-118

(PDI -- Sept. 6, 7 & 8, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting offers to purchase/lease by way of sealed bids the following commercial/industrial properties on an "As Is - Where Is" basis.

I. SECOND TENDER

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE/SQM	TERMS
001-062	62 lots, 170 to 298 sqm. With TCTs	Brgy. Pandacaqui, Mexico, Pampanga	PhP 1,500.00 to PhP 1,856.00	CASH
063	1 lot, 1,288 sqm. With TCT	Bagong Nayon II Sites & Services Proj. Antipolo City	PhP 5,000.00	CASH

II. FIRST TENDER

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE/SQM	TERMS
064	1 lot, 1.5 hectares	Vitas, Tondo Manila	PhP 16,000.00	CASH OR INSTALLMENT (5 yrs.@18% p.a.)
065-074	10 lots, 140 to 10,995 sqm. With TCTs	Sapang Palay, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan	PhP 525.00 to PhP 1,175.00	CASH
075-080	6 lots, 190 to 232 sqm. With TCTs	Alijis, Bacolod	PhP 1,600.00	CASH
081	1 lot, 300 sqm. & Bldg. 300 sqm.	Puntod Macabalan Cagayan de Oro	Lot - PhP 8,287.50 Bldg-PhP 10,758.25 (monthly lease)	LEASE-15 yrs. (Advance annual lease)

Interested parties may purchase one/any or all of the lots and lease the lot & building offered, details of which may be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00 from the COINBAC c/o CIED, Mezzanine Floor, NHA Building, Diliman, Quezon City. For Pampanga, Bacolod and Cagayan de Oro properties, bidding materials are available in the respective Project Offices. For inquiry, please call Evelyn V. Ramos or Neri A. Subido at the ff. tel. nos.: 923-0390, 922-3001 & 928-4591 Loc. 302-303.

SCHEDULE	ALL PROPERTIES (Except Bacolod & Cagayan de Oro)	ALIJIS, BACOLOD	CAGAYAN DE ORO
A. Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements	Sept. 10-24, '01 until 5 p.m. CIED, Mezzanine Flr., NHA Bldg.	Oct. 1- 18, '01 until 5 p.m. NHA Bacolod Project Office Union Bank Bldg. 3rd Flr., Cor. Araneta & Rosario Streets	Oct. 22 to Nov. 8, '01 until 5 p.m. NHA Cagayan de Oro Project Office Don Julio Pacana St. Puntod Macabalan
B. Pre-Bid Conference	Sept. 19, '01 10:00 a.m. Operations Center 3rd Flr., NHA bldg.	Oct. 17, '01 2:00 p.m. NHA Bacolod Project Office	Nov. 7, '01 2:00 p.m. NHA Cagayan de Oro Project Office
C. Submission of Sealed Bids	Sept. 28, '01 up to 12 noon Operations Center	Oct. 19, '01 up to 12 noon NHA Bacolod Project Office	Nov. 9, '01 up to 12 noon NHA Cagayan de Oro Project Office
D. Opening of Bids	Sept. 28, '01 1:30 p.m. Operations Center	Oct. 19, '01 2:00 p.m. NHA Bacolod Project Office	Nov. 9, '01 2:00 p.m. NHA Cagayan de Oro Project Office

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bid offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Assistant General Manager
& Chairman, COINBAC

(PDI-Sept. 8 & 15, 2001)

SBMA DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
SBMA Bldg., 255, Barryman St., Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
TEL. NOS. 6347 252-4214/4124 FAX NO. 6347 252-4284

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED DISPOSABLE/ SURPLUS AND OTHER SCRAP MATERIALS "AS IS, WHERE IS"

I. ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION — SCHEDULE OF BIDDING

	ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	SCHEDULE OF BIDDING
Lot 1)	Abandoned finished products & other properties by Korea Subic-Manufacturer of fishing rods at NavMag, SBMA	September 27, 2001, 2:00 PM
Lot 2)	2 x Unserviceable generator trains, transformer & other scrap materials located at Bldg. 8325 yard	September 27, 2001, 2:30 PM
Lot 3)	14 x Condemned buildings at Airport vicinity for demolition & clearing	September 27, 2001, 3:00 PM
Lot 4)	Unserviceable furniture & other scrap materials stockpiled in 10 IGLOOS at NavMag Group 2	September 27, 2001, 3:30 PM

II. Buyers are requested to submit the following Pre-qualification documents at the Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Room 201, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 255, SBMA, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

1. Certificate of Accreditation as Scrap Hauler from Trade & Tourism Group or PPMD, SBMA.
2. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR 2000) of the bidder or copies of Audited Financial Statement of the Company and Certification of Cash Deposit by a reputable bank.

III. Deadline for submission of the Pre-Qualification Papers is on **September 13, 2001, Thursday (5:00 p.m.)**. No extension.

IV. Pre-Bid Conference and Issuance of Bid Forms (P100.00 per set) will be on **September 20, 2001, Thursday (3:00 p.m.)**.

V. Bid Bond is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten (10%) percent of the total bid price in favor of SBMA.

VI. Inspection will strictly be by Group on the following schedules:

Lot 1)	September 14, 2001	- 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Lot 2)	September 17, 2001	- 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Lot 3)	September 18, 2001	- 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Lot 4)	September 19, 2001	- 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

VII. For other information, inquiries and/or request for inspection, call Tel. No. (047) 252-4214/4483 (c/o Danny Sanchez).

VIII. SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein or to reject/accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to SBMA.

Done this 7th day of September 2001.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO A. INOCENTES**
DA for Administration
Vice-Chairman-Disposal Committee

(PDI -- Sept. 8, 9 & 10, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

SLRC-2001-09B

The Southern Luzon Regional Center (SLRC), NPC wishes to invite interested parties to prequalify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 12, 2001; 2:00 PM	
A1	1 LOT	J.O. LOADING, HAULING, UNLOADING OF STEEL POLES (270 PCS.)(EMERGENCY REBIDDING)	3PTG01-036
		DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 24, 2001; 2:00 PM	
B1	4 PCS	FILTER CARTRIDGE	3BAC01-338
B2	1 LOT	SAFETY APPARELS	3TIW01-0022
B3	1 LOT	J.O. REFILLING OF FIRE EXTINGUISHER	3MAK01-235
B4	1 LOT	HYDROGEN/CARBON DIOXIDE GAS	3MAK00-782
B5	71 PAIRS	SAFETY SHOES	3MAK01-369
		DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 25, 2001; 2:00 PM	
C1	1 LOT	SPARE PARTS FOR MOTOROLA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM ANALYZER	3TSS00-109
C2	1 LOT	CONTACTOR, RESISTOR, CAPACITOR, RELAY	3NCS01-049
C3	1 LOT	INDICATORS, THERMOMETERS, ETC.	3NCS01-052
C4	1 LOT	J.O. REPAIR OF 1 UNIT 5 MVA 69/13.8KV POWER TRANSFORMER AND RELOCATION OF 1 UNIT 10 MVA 69/13.8 KV POWER TRANSFORMER	3OPO01-008
C5	1 LOT	LOUVERS, SIDEWALLS FRP	3MAK01-368

Note: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:
1) C4-September 17, 2001; 10:00 a.m. at SLRO Bidding Room
2) C5-September 17, 2001; 11:00 a.m. at SLRO Bidding Room

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting **September 11, 2001**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bid documents for Schedules B5 and C5 may be obtained from MMS, GENCO 6.

Non-accredited suppliers can get prequalification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than **September 14, 2001** before they are allowed to bid.

Only those prequalified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock p.m. on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in Cash or Certified Manager's / Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) **R.D. RAMAS**
MANAGER, ADMINISTRATION

(PDI -- Sept. 8, 2001)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Official Depository Bank of the Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID FOR CONTRACT PACKAGE NO. 9-A: SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND ASSEMBLY OF TRADING DESK

All corporations registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), with extensive experience in the supply, delivery and assembly of trading desk for office buildings, are invited to apply for pre-qualification, and bidding for Contract Package No. 9-A for the new LBP Headquarters Building in Malate, Manila with the following schedule:

Issuance of Pre-Qualification Form	Pre-Qualification Conference	Issuance of Notice of Pre-qualification/ Pre-disqualification	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date
Sept. 10 to 13 2001 @ 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Sept. 14, 2001 @ 10:00 AM	Sept. 28, 2001	Oct. 1, 2001 @ 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Oct. 2, 2001 @ 10:00 AM	Oct. 5, 2001 @ 10:00 AM

All interested Suppliers may obtain the Pre-qualification forms from the LBP Ad Hoc Group Office, c/o Project Management and Engineering Department (PMED), 2F LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of P1,400.00. Only those suppliers who secured the pre-qualification documents shall be eligible to participate in the pre-qualification process.

After the pre-qualification conference, Suppliers shall be given three (3) calendar-days to signify in writing their interest to join the pre-qualification process by accomplishing the proforma Letter of Intent (LOI) included in the pre-qualification forms issued earlier. Attendance to the pre-qualification conference is among the requirements for pre-qualification.

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted to and received at the above-stated office not later than September 19, 2001, 3:00 PM, after which no documents will be accepted. All participating suppliers shall be notified in writing of the results of the pre-qualification.

Only pre-qualified suppliers may secure Bid Documents at the above-stated office/date upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

Pre-Qualification and Pre-Bid conferences will be held on the above-stated date and time at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2F, LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Bidding shall be conducted using the two (2) envelope system (envelopes "A" and "B") to be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 AM on October 5, 2001 (the Bidding Date). Bidding shall be held at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2F, LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

LBP reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference and bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

LBP likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense/loss that they may incur during the preparation of their bids, and to accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO T. HERNANDEZ**
Chairman,
Sub-Committee for LBP HQ Building Project

(PDI -- Sept. 8, 9 & 10, 2001)

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AMENDED INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the:

Supply of:

62 BRAND NEW AGRICULTURAL FARM TRACTORS AND FARM IMPLEMENTS

AGRICULTURAL FARM TRACTORS

Specification	No. of Units
115 HP	44
105 HP	7
100 HP	1
90 HP	10

FARM IMPLEMENTS

Item Description	No. of Units
Mouldboard Plows	46
Disc Plows	6

Total Budget : Php 117,600,000.00
To be delivered to different points in the Philippines

Only pre-qualified bidders as of **September 21, 2001** shall be allowed to participate in the Public Bidding to be held on **September 27, 2001** at the SRA Social Hall at 9:00 AM.

Pre-qualification forms shall be issued starting **September 10, 2001** and the deadline for the submission of said requirements shall be on **September 13, 2001.**

A pre-qualification conference shall be held on **September 11** at 2:00 p.m. at the SRA Social Hall.

The list of qualified bidders shall be released on **September 21.** Thereafter, bid forms shall be issued for a non-refundable cost of Php500.00 each.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on **September 24** at the SRA Social Hall at 9:00 AM.

All bids must be accompanied by bid bonds in the amount of 5% of the total cost of the tender or offer—either in cash, Manager's check or surety bond accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

For further inquiries, please call:

THE SECRETARIAT
SRA Bidding and Awards Committee
Tel. No. 929-68-37

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or defect therein, and to accept any or all offers that may be considered most advantageous to the SRA.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI – Sept. 8, 9 & 10, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
860 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila 3008
Tel. Nos. 372-50-57 * 372-50-43
Fax Nos. 372-50-48 * 372-50-61

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), invites qualified bidders/suppliers to participate in the bidding for the following items not later than 2:00 PM on **September 21, 2001.**

ITEMS TO BID:

1	set	Portable Echo Sounder
6	units	Computer with complete accessories, RIV#1322, 1334, 1335, 1331, 1494, 150
2	units	Fax machine, RIV#1335 & 1323
2	units	Deskjet printer
1	unit	Scanner
5	units	Camera
2	units	Airconditioning System
1	unit	VHS Player
1	unit	Overhead projector
1	unit	Card Catalog Cabinet
1	unit	Photocopier
	-	Various Construction Supplies and Materials, RIV#1423, 1341, 1468, 1470

Bid form together with complete specifications may be obtained from Property Section.

Interested bidders are required to submit the following requirements upon securing bidding forms: photo copies of Business License, Certificate of Registration/DTI, latest audited Financial Statement, latest Income Tax Return (original copies to be shown for authentication purposes).

This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the PBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director

(PDI -- Sept. 8, 2001)

SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
Bids and Awards Committee
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
TEL. NOS. (047) 252-4270*4214*4124 FAX NO. (047) 252-4284

September 5, 2001

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY ("SBMA"), through the Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC") invites duly registered Firms, Suppliers/ Contractors to pre-qualify and bid for the following:

AUDIO SOUND SYSTEM WITH COMPLETE ACCESSORIES
LIGHTING FIXTURE FOR THE PROPOSED PAVILLION-BOARDWALK
ONE (1) UN. DEFIBRILLATOR WITH COMPLETE ACCESSORIES
ONE (1) UN. ELECTRO CARDIO GRAPH (ECG) MACHINE

The following documents are necessary for the pre-qualification as a supplier/ contractor for the above-mentioned public bidding:

1. Article of Incorporation
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
3. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
4. Valid Mayor's Permit
5. VAT Registration
6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
7. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement with reputable firms in the industry, document duly notarized at the point of origin
8. Company PROFILE
9. List of Product
10. List of Clients
11. Non-refundable Pre-qualification fee (P200.00)

Submission of the above pre-qualification documents is until 5:00 p.m. of **September 14, 2001** (Friday), at the BAC Secretariat, PPMD Office, Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Firms qualified by the SBMA and dates for the Pre-Bid Conference and Submission/Opening of Bids shall be announced through Bid Bulletin.

The SBMA assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of pre-qualification requirements. The decision of the SBMA on who are qualified to bid shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RIZAL V. KATALBAS JR**
Secretary, BAC

(PDI -- Sept. 7, 8 & 9, 2001)

Weak Japan economy tips toward recession

TOKYO—Japan started preparing a package of pump-priming measures on Friday as fresh data revealed the world's second-biggest economy shrank 0.8 percent in the three months to June from the previous quarter.

"The gross domestic product data are extremely severe numbers. We must press ahead with the preparation of a supplementary budget," Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi told reporters after the figures were released.

On an annualized basis, Japan's gross domestic product fell 3.2 percent in the June quarter.

Although Japan appeared to be sliding toward a recession, Koizumi pledged to push ahead with a tough structural reform program expected to act as a further brake on the economy in the short term.

However, he said the negative short term effects of the reforms would be eased by a limited supplementary budget.

He said he wanted to "show people that smooth progress in structural reforms will contribute to an economic revival."

A 2.8-percent fall in corporate spending in the June quarter from the previous three months was a key factor in causing the economy to shrink, State Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy Heizo Takenaka told a news conference. It was the steepest decline in corporate spending since the December quarter in 1998.

He hinted it would be very hard for Japan to achieve the official growth target for the year to March of 1.7 percent.

"I am aware that we are in a very severe situation."

Economists said it would be impossible for Japan to achieve its full-year growth target.

"Based on today's figures, this year's growth must be negative so political pressure on the Bank of Japan and the government to have a stimulus package will increase," said BNP Paribas chief economist Ryutaro Kono.

Possible revision of the annual growth target would be discussed following the drawing up of the stimulus package, scheduled for late October, Takenaka said.

"We will be discussing the review after seeing developments regarding the supplementary budget."

But he warned a fresh cash injection might not be enough to save Japan's economy from further decline.

"Even if we raise the amount of the supplementary budget by several trillion yen it would only have the slightest impact on growth rates for this fiscal year (to March 2002)."

A slump in housing investment and public-sector spending also contributed to the quarterly contraction in GDP to June.

Housing investment plummeted 8.8 percent from the previous quarter, the largest drop since the June quarter of 1997, the government said.

Investment in the public sector declined 4.1 percent over the three months, contrasting sharply with a 5.1-percent rise in the March quarter as government spending dried up.

On a slightly optimistic note, the all-important consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of Japan's GDP, rose 0.5 percent from the March quarter due to strong clothing sales, the government said. *AFP*

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A JAPANESE businessman walks past an electronic stockboard in downtown Tokyo. The government announced on Friday that Japan's economy shrank 0.8 percent in the second quarter, confirming growing fears about an economy in decline. AP

Japan ratchets up pressure at Apec meet

SUZHOU, China—Asia-Pacific finance ministers arrived in China on Friday for weekend talks aimed at reviving global growth, but gloomy data on Japan's weak economy underscored their uphill struggle to get the region on track.

Deputy ministers and central bankers from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum closed two days of preparatory meetings in the eastern city of Suzhou after hammering out an agenda and statement for the ministers.

The statement called for efforts to spur flagging global growth while ensuring poorer economies are not left behind.

"We have agreed on the joint ministerial statement, which covers all of the important issues faced by us in today's world," China's vice finance minister, Jin Liqun, told reporters.

The draft declaration details "efforts that should be made to help with sustained economic growth and a more equitable distribution of income," Jin said.

Jin had promised the Apec meetings would conclude with "a very strong signal to international markets," but the issues under discussion appeared to break little new ground.

The mood at the financial forum has been dampened by the sluggish US economy and global high-tech slump, which have crimped Asian exports, driving Singapore into recession and Hong Kong and Japan to its brink.

"It would be a lie if we said sentiment was good," one Asian delegate said.

The one bright spot at the Apec forum on Friday could turn out to be a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the event between Chinese Finance Minister Xiang Huaicheng and his Taiwan counterpart, Yen Ching-Chang.

Taiwan's foreign minister, however, has played down the meeting as a matter of Apec protocol.

In addition to the global slump, the deputies' discussions focused on corporate governance, the development of Asian debt markets, electronic finance and a report calling for better transparency from credit rating agencies.

The 21 economies span the spectrum from the world's biggest economies in the United States and Japan to crisis-ridden Indonesia and impoverished Papua New Guinea. Latin American economies among the members are suffering from Argentina's debt crisis. *Reuters*

Seventeen mag sets launch in 6 countries

NEW YORK—Teen magazine Seventeen is looking far afield to cement its position as one of the most popular teenage magazines—it's planning to launch editions in countries as far apart as Mexico, Indonesia and Russia.

The magazine, owned by publishing giant Primedia Inc., will launch in Venezuela and Mexico in September, Indonesia in November, China and Russia in December and in Colombia early next year.

"We looked at the markets where there was an opportunity to go with a teen publication," Beverly Chell, head of Primedia International, told Reuters. "In the areas we targeted, there were very few teen magazines or magazines of the quality and caliber of Seventeen."

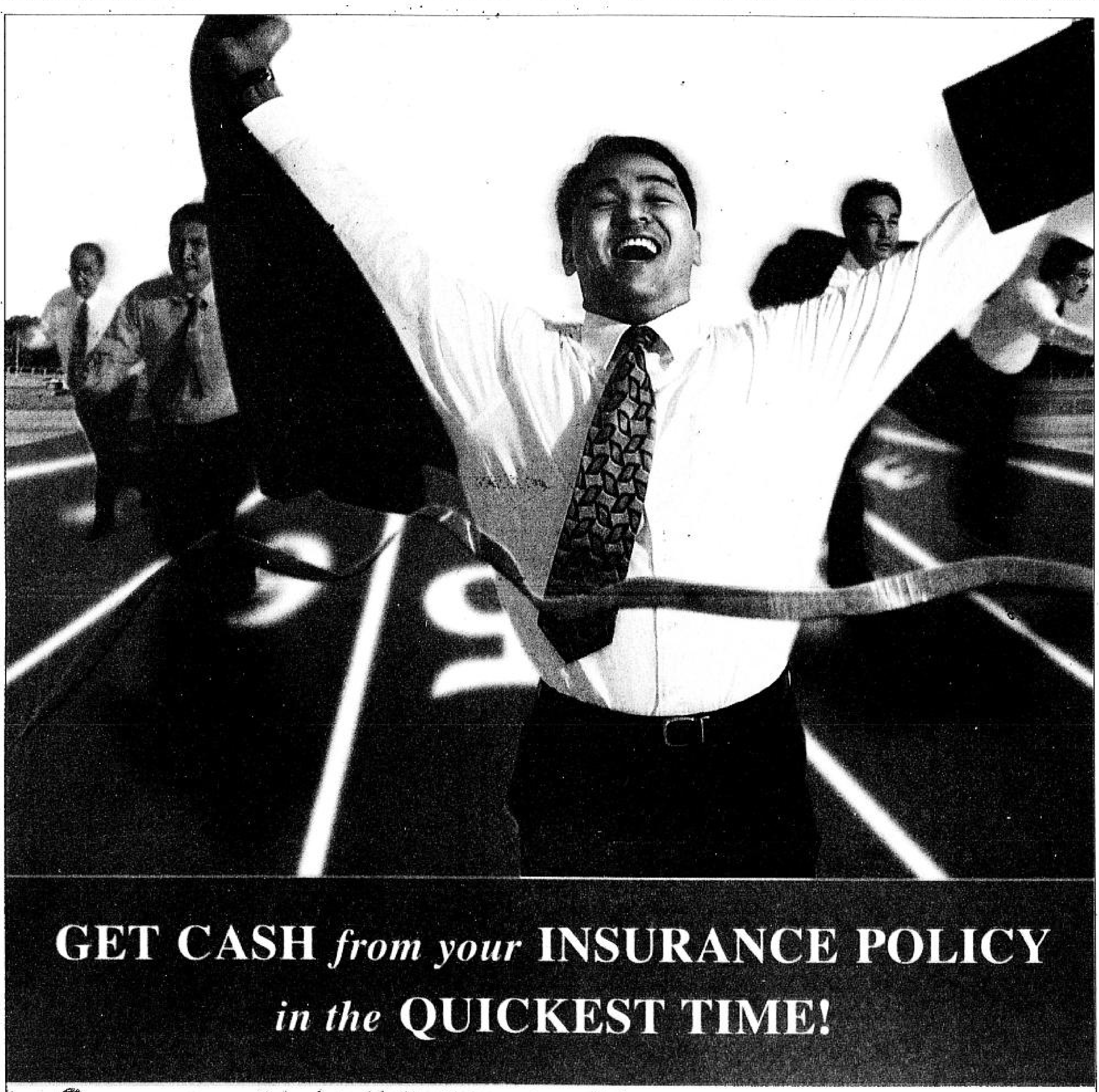
Seventeen started its international expansion just over a year ago, testing the waters first in the Philippines. When that launch proved successful, Seventeen decided to spread its wings.

Seventeen's parent, Primedia, chose the six new countries because each of them had a large number of teens who were beginning to have significant disposable income, Chell said. As a result, the advertising market for teenagers is growing, Chell said.

Primedia will publish its international Seventeen editions through licensing agreements with publishers in each of the local markets. In Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia, it is teaming up with Editora Cinco, with SK Group in Russia, Women Friend in China and Femina in Indonesia.

"They have significant distribution experience in the glossy magazine business," Chell said. "They have found having the Seventeen name brings them a lot of credibility with the multinational advertisers."

Once Primedia gets the publication of Seventeen underway in its new markets, the company plans to target other eastern European countries and other parts of Asia and Latin America, Chell said. *Reuters*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Rubber producers agree to cut exports

KUALA LUMPUR—The world's top three rubber producers—Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand—agreed Thursday to cut exports by 10 percent and production by 4 percent from January in a bid to lift sagging prices.

The measures would give producer nations more say in global pricing and boost the livelihood of millions of small-holders in the region, said Malaysian Primary Industries Minister Lim Keng Yaik.

"The export limitation based on market demand will bring about better equilibrium and better prices in the international market," he told a news conference after chairing a tripartite ministerial meeting.

"We have to build up the advantage for ourselves as rubber producers, rather than be subject to disadvantages where the market is totally dictated by consuming countries."

The three countries would also work out policies to encourage their traders and exporters to merge so they could negotiate for better prices, he added.

The decision to cut production by 4 percent was agreed upon by the three nations, which produced 70 percent of world's natural rubber, at their last meeting in July in Bangkok.

But a joint statement on Thursday provided more details, saying total production would be reduced by 155,000 tons next year and 200,000 tons in 2003.

They would also cut back 10 percent of exports from 2002—the amount to be worked out by yearend—restrict new planting and speed up replanting and diversification into other crops.

Thailand produces about 2.3 million tons of rubber a year, Indonesia 1.4 million tons; and Malaysia 650,000 tons.

The ministers also agreed to set up an International Tripartite Rubber Council, which would be expanded to include other producing nations.

Lim said they have abandoned a proposed buffer stock scheme and opted instead for "export discipline" and "self-policing" in supply management.

He met with Thailand's Agriculture and Cooperative Deputy Minister Natee Khlibthong and Indonesia's Industry and Trade Minister Rini MS Soewandi.

AFP

Japan's Asahi Bank, Daiwa Bank in $413-B merger talks

TOKYO—Ailing Japanese lenders Asahi Bank Ltd. and Daiwa Bank Ltd. announced Friday they were negotiating to merge their operations to create a group with assets of around 50 trillion yen ($413 billion).

"It is true that we have received an offer from Asahi Bank," Daiwa Bank said in a statement. "Our bank is now considering it."

Asahi confirmed it had made an offer to Daiwa.

News reports said the two banks would set up a holding company from as early as April next year.

Shares in Asahi Bank last traded at 161 yen, down 14 percent from Thursday's close of 188 yen before trading was suspended on the merger rumors just before the close.

The shares reached a low of 140 yen earlier in the day on reports—strenuously denied by the bank—that it would miss paying its mid-term dividend.

Daiwa's shares ended the day unchanged at 162 yen.

Asahi posted a net loss of 7.84 billion yen for the year to March—a sharp plunge from a 31.4-billion yen profit posted last year—which the bank said was largely due to writing off bad loans.

Pretax losses stood at 11.75 billion yen, compared with a pretax profit of 94.05 billion yen, with revenue contracting 18.7 percent to 943.72 billion yen.

The level of bad loans at the bank, which has assets worth 30 trillion yen, soared 54.2 percent during the year to March to 1.40 trillion yen from 908.18 billion yen in the previous year.

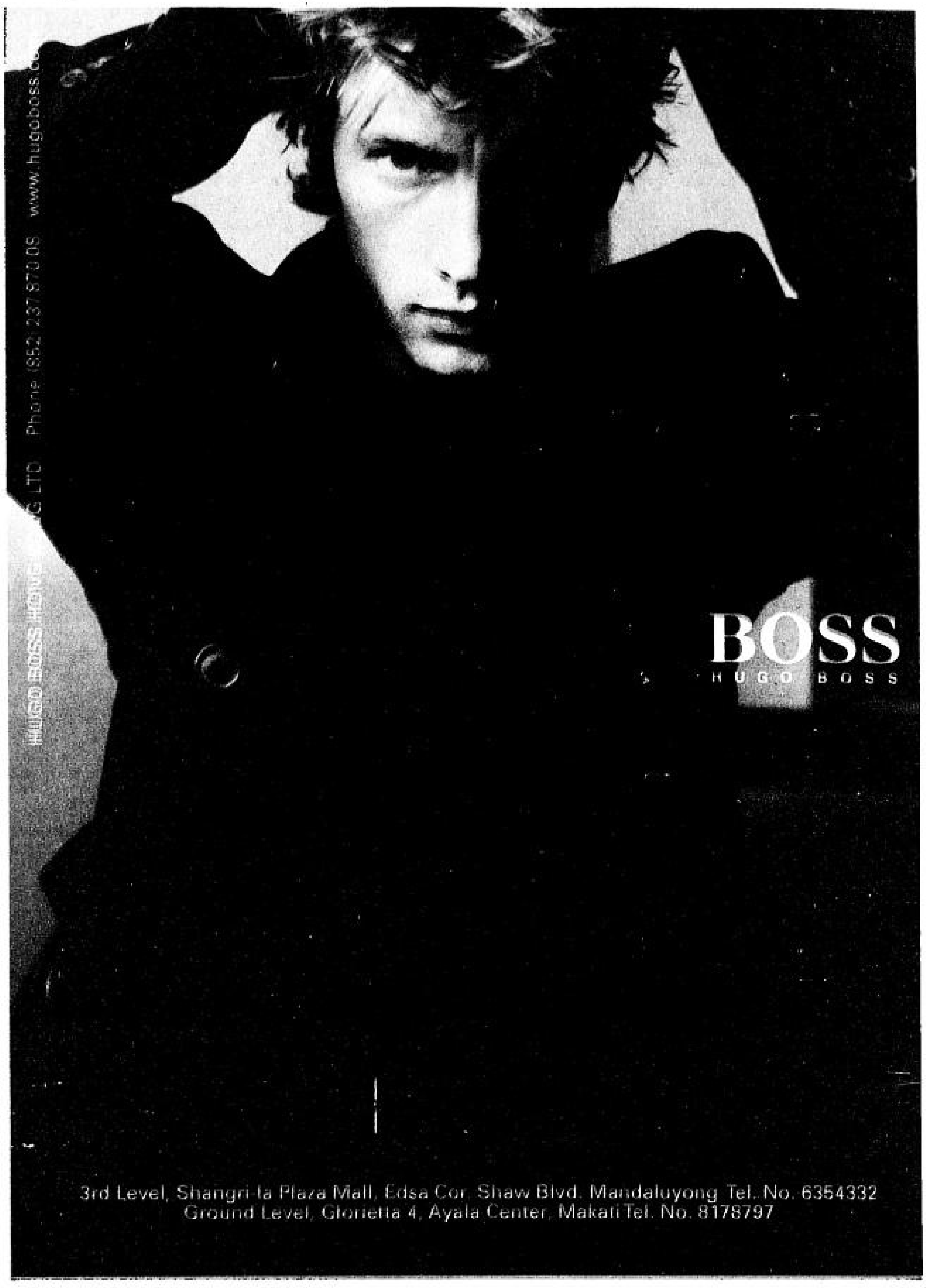
Daiwa Bank, which had been rumored to be close to collapse earlier this year, said last month it would partially consolidate its operations with affiliated regional lenders Kinki Osaka Bank Ltd. and Nara Bank Ltd.

The trio would form a holding company by March next year, tentatively called Daiwa Bank Holding. They would restructure their banking operations as early as April 2003 to create three new banks with combined net assets exceeding 20 trillion yen, Daiwa said.

Daiwa reported a net loss in the year to March of 23.4 billion yen and a pre-tax loss of 13.8 billion yen.

The Osaka-based bank received 408 billion yen from the Japanese government in 1999 as part of a bailout of 15 leading lenders designed to shore up their weak capital.

AFP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NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARY	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1.	LEONARDO ANTIPORDA JR. ROSEMARIE ANTIPORDA	Unknown	LEONARDO ANTIPORDA SS#03-1782777-2	July 9, 2001
2.	REMEDIOS CAPARAS	Makati City	ODELON A. ALONA SS#04-0345156-0	April 7, 2001
3.	EVELYN SAN GABRIEL	78 M Delos Santos St., Mandaluyong	ELIAS V. BALLESTEROS SS#03-2804489-0	October 11, 2000
4.	EVANGELINE BUCAO	Tagcatong, Carmen 8603 Agusan del Norte	ALEX BUCAO SS#03-5328243-6	September 17, 1999
5.	SHERYL CABERTO JOSE CABERTO	Unknown	LEONCIO CABERTO SS#08-3203946-4	June 9, 2000
6.	CARLOS DE VERA	Unknown	JOSEFINA DE VERA SS#03-1638014-2	December 4, 2000
7.	MIRIAM D. DIAZ	Unknown	MARCELO T. DIAZ SS#06-0803703-5	June 1, 2001
8.	CARLO N. AQUINO	Unknown	NILDA L. DIAZ SS#05-0448647-6	June 4, 2001
9.	ANTONIA LANOG	59 B Paraiso St., Parang, Marikina	CARLOS ESPARAS SS#03-1722271-7	September 19, 1990
10.	BELLAFLOR M. GARCIA	180 Wayan St., Bo. Masambong, Q.C.	RENATO GARCIA SS#03-1609016-0	April 11, 2001
11.	AMINA NASA	Quezon City	JOSE E. GAN SS#03-4035590-7	March 31, 1999
12.	TERDUCIA GALI	Abroad	ROMULO GALI SS#04-0510986-5	February 17, 1998
13.	NITA PILAPIL	Quezon City	JOSEPH GENATO SS#03-4877499-1	September 9, 2000
14.	KAREN INCOMIO	Almazona St., Canlalag Biñan, Laguna	CONSUELITA INCOMIO SS#03-5561783-4	June 28, 1999
15.	CHARITO L. LAMBUNAO	Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur & Dumanian, Bajaca, Davao City	LUIS P. LAMBUNAO SS#10-0121199-4	December 23, 2000
16.	MARCELA M. LAURENTE	Mati, Davao	BERNARDO LAURENTE SS#09-0086000-7	April 11, 2001
17.	BERNADETTE TENO PRIMITIVA/BABIE TINIO	Unknown	RODOLFO Z. LAZAGA SS#04-0195727-3	March 22, 2001
18.	LUVISMINDA COLEGADO	Malabon, Metro Mla.	MARCELINO A. MENDOZA SS#03-3274506-2	October 8, 2000
19.	IMELDA FE MENESES	Dagupan	AMPARO S. MENESES SS#02-3133439-6	June 17, 2000
20.	TARCILO, ERINIO & RAQUEL COTONER SUSANA LAUSIN	Unknown	LUZ COTONER MIRASOL SS#03-9850698-6	April 25, 2001
21.	LORETA NEBRIL	2089 F. Muñoz, Malate, Manila/ Alugan, San Policarpio E. Samar	WILFREDO NEBRIL SS#03-3233977-9	June 15, 2000
22.	ELSI, JAZEL JEAN & JASON PASCUAL	Unknown	ISMAEL PASCUAL SS#33-2298346-2	July 8, 2001
23.	MELCHORA MILAGROS N. PEDIDA	176 Moriones St., Tondo, Manila Blk 17 Lt4 Lagro Subd., Novaliches Manila	PAQUITO PEDIDA SS#03-2698336-4	March 20, 2001
24.	JUANITO S. PUDDOC		MERCEDES V. PUDDOC SS#03-4682652-4	May 11, 2001
25.	VILMA PURUGGANAN	30-D St. Mary St., Cubao, Q.C.	EMMANUEL PURUGGANAN SS#03-1884162-1	April 24, 2001
26.	LETICIA, MERLITA & ANGELITO RACOMA	Unknown	CARLITO A. RACOMA SS#03-3234565-3	June 4, 2000
27.	ERLINDA C. SAGUN	647 Coronado St., Viejo, Guadalupe, Makati City	ALFREDO A. SAGUN SS#03-1745685-5	August 11, 2001
28.	ANGELINA DE GUZMAN	1510 Int'l. Sande, Tondo, Manila	CONSTANCIO SERRANO SS#03-0353370-8	July 7, 2001
29.	MERCY VILLAFUERTE	Unknown	MIGUEL VILLAFUERTE SS#03-1118231-6	July 30, 2001

. . . nothing follows . . .

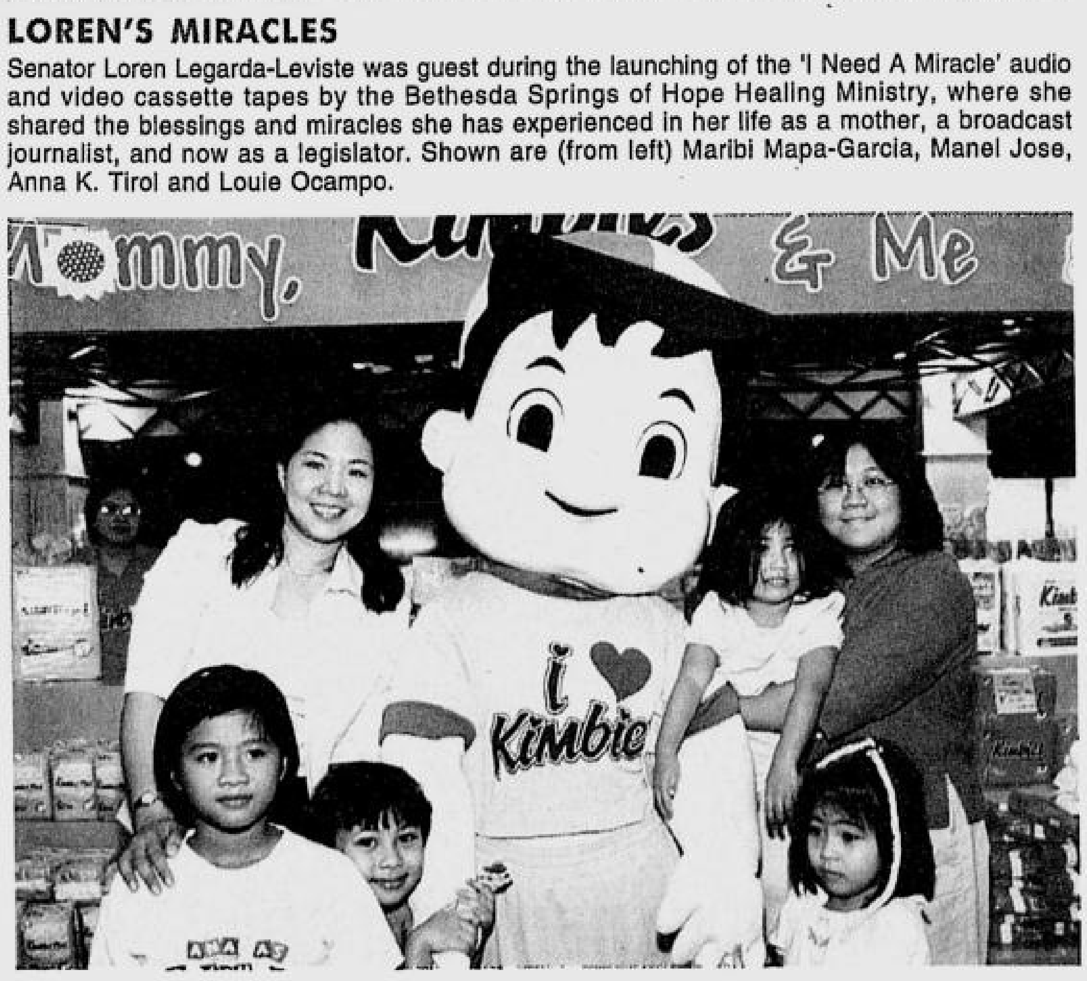
(PDI – Sept. 8, 2001)

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

LOREN'S MIRACLES

Senator Loren Legarda-Leviste was guest during the launching of the 'I Need A Miracle' audio and video cassette tapes by the Bethesda Springs of Hope Healing Ministry, where she shared the blessings and miracles she has experienced in her life as a mother, a broadcast journalist, and now as a legislator. Shown are (from left) Maribi Mapa-Garcia, Manel Jose, Anna K. Tirol and Louie Ocampo.



SPECIAL MASCOT APPEARANCE

Kimboy, the official mascot of Kimbies Diapers, is flanked by Kimbies senior brand manager Gina Vizconde (left) and product manager Apple Ting (right) at the Kimbies booth at Ever-Gotesco mall in Commonwealth, Quezon City. Dubbed 'Mommy, Kimbies and Me,' the affair was part of a series of activities held in three other Ever-Gotesco malls (Ortigas Extension, C.M. Recto and Grand Central) and Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall. For a minimum purchase of P100 worth of Kimbies Diapers, consumers were entitled to a free change of diapers at the 'Palit Diaper' corner and free medical consultations at the 'O.K. (Operation Kalinga) Para Kay Nanay at Baby' corner. Kimby also made special appearances at the booths. With secure-hold tapes, the new Kimbies Plus Disposable Diapers has a trim-fit leg design that keeps babies cool and absorbent layers that remain intact even after long usage and heavy wetting. New Kimbies Diaper Pad, on the other hand, is the first and only diaper in pad form in the Philippines. It is used in tandem with any ordinary cloth diaper, panty or brief. The new Kimbies Plus Disposable Diapers and the new Kimbies Diaper Pads are quality products of Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. (K-CPI).

DBS SECURITIES PHILIPPINES, INC.

10-11/F Sage House, 110 Herrera Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City

ANNOUNCEMENT

TO OUR VALUED CLIENTS:

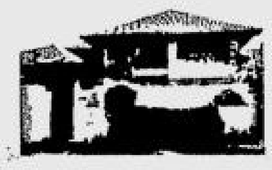
In February 2001, our Parent Company, DBS Securities Holdings Pte Ltd. announced its merger in Singapore with Vickers Ballas Holdings Ltd. The merged entity will be known as DBS Vickers Securities Holdings.

In view of the merger, the securities brokerage operations of DBS Securities Philippines, Inc. shall be transferred to Vickers Ballas Securities (Phils.), Inc. as of the close of business on 30 September 2001. All transactions shall be executed through Vickers Ballas Securities (Phils.), Inc. effective immediately.

Further, we wish to inform you that unless we are otherwise instructed by you to endorse your trading accounts with another active broker, we will transfer your respective accounts to Vickers Ballas Securities (Phils.), Inc.

For more information, please call our Settlements Department at the following telephone numbers: (632) 812-8361 or (632) 750-5865.

(PDI - Sept. 8, 2001)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PNB PROPERTIES AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Ref. No	LOCATION	Lot Area (sq. m.)	Floor Area	Indicative Price
METRO MANILA				
MM-B0767	No. 3 Aldrin St., Doña Faustina Vill., Culiat, Quezon City, TCT No. T-130261	472	153	4,200,000.00
MM-B0768	No. 134 Buagan cor. Tagaytay Sts., San Jose, Kalookan City, TCT No. 289331	324.2	315	4,200,000.00
MM-B0769	No. 3251 Limay St., Bo. Obrero, Tondo, Manila, TCT No. 225787	294.04	153	3,650,000.00
MM-B0770	R.M. Tiosejo Subd., Tunasan, Muntinlupa City, TCT No. 181924	180	330	3,400,000.00
MM-B0771	No. 32 Hyacinth St., Roxas District, Quezon City, TCT No. N-205503	120	209	3,400,000.00
MM-B0772	No. 89 Chico St., BF Homes, Phase II, Paranaque City, TCT No. 44608	280	92	3,200,000.00
MM-B0773	Lot 10 Block 7, Marcelo St., Suerteville Subd., Bgy. Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City, TCT No. PT-114141	229	195	2,750,000.00
MM-B0774	No. 1738 Joel St., Jordan Plains Subd., Novaliches, Quezon City, TCT No. RT-78194	240	238	2,700,000.00
MM-B0775	No. 498 Gen. Capinpin St., Gomez Subd., Bgy. Manggahan, Pasig City, TCT No. 66567	279.4	126	2,150,000.00
MM-B0776	Lot 3 Blk 2, Road Lot 3, Sinag-tala St., Town & Country, Gardenville Phase 2, Bgy Bahay Toro, Quezon City, TCT No. N-162586	50	100	2,100,000.00
MM-B0777	Lot 4254 Block 1, No. 15119 St. Therese St., San Agustine Vill., Moonwalk, Paranaque City, TCT No. 133909	250	204	2,000,000.00
MM-B0778	Lot 11 Blk 7, Meteor St., Moonwalk Subd., Las Pinas City, TCT No. T-51650	149	248	1,800,000.00
MM-B0779	Lt 15 Blk 203 Milflores St., Geneva Gardens, Neopolitan Homes VII, Fairview, Quezon City, TCT No. N-172024	300	-	1,800,000.00
MM-B0780	Lot 2 Block 2 Gen. Capinpin St., Soldiers Hill II, Las Piñas City, TCT No. T-12062	277	70	1,300,000.00
MM-B0797	Lot 28-1-2-B, Estanislao St., BF Resort Vill. Las Piñas City, TCT No. (T-38886) T-42958	141	60	1,250,000.00
MM-B0781	Lot 29 Block 11, Commonwealth Ave., Jordan Plains Subd., Novaliches, Quezon City, TCT No. 99940	240	-	1,200,000.00
MM-B0782	No. 18 J.P. Rizal corner M.H. del Pilar Sts., Brgy. Sta. Lucia, Novaliches, Quezon City, TCT No. T-189210	180.4	58	800,000.00
MM-B0783	No. 8 Jaguar St., Brixtonville Subd., Camarin, Kalookan City, TCT No. 58138	240	39	700,000.00
MM-B0784	No. 4 Del Carmen St., St. Mary Subd., Nangka, Marikina City, TCT No. 408279	43	64	600,000.00
MM-B0785	No. 22-B Interior Emerald Lane, Culiat, Quezon City, TCT No. 120348	95	61	460,000.00
LUZON				
LU-B0786	Bgy. Zambal, Tagaytay City, TCT No. P-823	6504		4,000,000.00
LU-B0787	No. 25 Edward VIII St., Kingsville Subd., Mayamot, Antipolo, Rizal, TCT No. N-87358	252	103	1,900,000.00
LU-B0788	Lt 13 Blk 6, Rodeo Countryside Estate, Alfonso, Cavite, TCT No. T-511201	907		1,500,000.00
LU-B0789	Lt 13 Blk 6, Rodeo Countryside Estate, Alfonso, Cavite, TCT No. T-511201	925		1,500,000.00
LU-B0790	No. 21 Primerose St., Cainta Greenland Executive Vill., Cainta, Rizal, TCT No. 658178	200	131	1,220,000.00
LU-B0791	Molave cor. Tindalo St., Doña Justa Subd., Angono, Rizal, TCT No. 510807	362	63	960,000.00
LU-B0792	Lot 2 Blk 33 Vista Verde Ave. Ext. II cor. Flores Sts., Vista Verde Executive Vill., Cainta, Rizal, TCT No. 579929	250		950,000.00
CHATTELS				
CH-B0793	Hitachi Excavator Model UH-23 with Serial No. 171-0418			2,500,000.00
CH-B0794	Kawasaki Payloader Model KLD 882 with Serial No. 1501			1,700,000.00
CH-B0795	Yutani Hydraulic Excavator Model YS100 II with Serial No. CT000184	-	-	1,000,000.00
CH-B0796	Hitachi Hydraulic Excavator Model UH-7-5 with Serial No 17117	-	-	900,000.00

For further inquiry and prescribed forms, please visit us at 8/F Acquired Assets Administration and Sales Division, PNB Financial Center Roxas Blvd., Pasay City or call us and ask for the following officers:

Ronnie T. Antonio	MM-B0767, MM-B0768, MM-B0770 to MM-0774, MM-B0776, MM-B0778, MM-B0779, MM-B0781 to MM-B0783 MM-B0785, LU-B0787 to LU-B0792	891-6040 Local 4333 526-3531
Chito Bustamante	MM-B0769, MM-B0772, MM-B0775, MM-B0777, MM-B0780, MM-B0784 & MM-B0786	891-6040 Local 4707 526-3361
Manny B. Severino	MM-B0797	891-6040 Local 4333 526-3406
Sonny P. Quinlo	CH-B0793, CH-B0794, CH-B0795 & CH-B0796	891-6040 Local 4951 526-3111

Sealed offer/s to buy must be submitted to the above officer not later than 4:30 P.M., September 14, 2001. The offer/s must be labeled Ref. No. 09/5 & 8/2001 - AAASD.

The above properties are available for sale on cash or installment and on an "As is, Where Is" basis.

Highest and acceptable bid is subject to approval by the Bank's appropriate approving committee.

PNB reserves the right to withdraw any and/or all the foregoing properties from the above list at any time before the deadline for submission of offers or any other purposes.

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public of the merger between Asea Brown Boveri, Inc. (PHABB) and ABB Industry, Inc. (PHIND) where PHIND shall be the absorbed corporation and PHABB shall be the surviving corporation pursuant to the Articles of Merger executed by and between the said corporations on 16 July 2001.

PHIND is a wholly-owned subsidiary of PHABB and all obligations and contracts entered into by PHIND will, by operation of law, be assumed by PHABB.

The Articles of Merger have been duly filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on 16 August 2001.

(PDI–Sept. 8, 2001)

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University of Santo Tomas
Faculty of Medicine & Surgery
Department of Neurology & Psychiatry

GILBERTO L. GAMEZ, MD

Professor Emeritus

passed away in Fort Myers, Florida, USA on 1 September 2001

By way of prayers, the Department joins the family in its moment of sorrow and hour of bereavement.

Dr. Gamez was the founding Chairman of the Department of Neurology & Psychiatry. In the past 40 years, he pioneered the advancement of neurology and psychiatry as medical and academic disciplines. Since then, the Department has grown and produced numerous specialists practicing throughout the country and abroad. He was the compleat doctor/academic whose devotion to his work and whose compassion towards the sick distinguished him as the epitome of the Thomasian physician.

The Department condoles with the family for having lost a man whose kindness was as selfless as it was generous.

The UST Department of Neurology & Psychiatry will offer a concelebrated Mass and necrological service in honor of Dr. Gamez on Thursday, 13 September 2001, 2:00 p.m. at the Santissimo Rosario Parish Church (UST Chapel).

The Royal and Pontifical
University of Santo Tomas
The Catholic University of the Philippines

sadly announces the demise of

GILBERTO L. GAMEZ, MD

Professor Emeritus

in Fort Myers, Florida, USA on 1 September 2001.

For the past 60 years, Dr. Gilberto L. Gamez was an invaluable member of the University community. He served as a faculty member of the College of Liberal Arts and the Faculty of Medicine & Surgery. He also served as *Founding Chairman of the Department of Neurology & Psychiatry; Dean of the Faculty of Medicine & Surgery; Member of the Governing Board of the Santo Tomas University Hospital and as a Member of the Board of Trustees of the University.*

By way of prayers and Masses, the Dominican community joins the family in its moment of sorrow and hour of bereavement.

The
Department of National Defense
with the entire
Armed Forces of the Philippines Family

condole with the bereaved wife, **Dolores** and children **Victor Jose, Maria Kathrina Rose, Bernard Jose, Maria Lolita, Maria Elena,** of

MGen. Jose "Joe" S. Lachica (Ret.)

(Administrator of Philippine Veterans Affairs Office)

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on 05 September 2001.

His remains lie in state at Veterans Center in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City and will be moved to St. Michael Chapel, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City in the afternoon of September 11, 2001.

Necrological services will be at the St. Michael Chapel, Fort Bonifacio at 7 o'clock in the evening of September 11.

Interment will be on 12 September 2001 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani after the Holy Mass at 9:00 a.m. at St. Michael Chapel, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

"Let us pray for his eternal repose"

In Loving Memory
of

RUBEN FAMY ALVAREZ

On the 14th Anniversary of His Passage to Eternal Life

Holy Masses will be offered for him today at the following Churches:

Holy Family Parish, Brgy. San Isidro, Makati City .... 6:00 AM
Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish, ... 6:00 AM
Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City
Our Lady of Annunciation Parish, ... 6:00 AM
Mindanao Ave. Ext., Quezon City
San Ildefonso Parish, Pio del Pilar, Makati City .... 6:00 AM
St. Peter & St. Paul Parish, Poblacion, Makati City .... 6:00 AM
St. Joseph The Worker Parish, Palanan, Makati City .... 6:00 AM
San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish, ... 6:00 AM
Congressional Vill., Quezon City
Santuario de San Antonio Parish, ... 6:15 AM
Forbes Park, Makati City
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, ... 6:15 AM
Magallanes Vill., Makati City
St. John Bosco Parish, Arnaiz St., Makati City .... 6:30 AM
St. Andrew The Apostle Church, ... 6:30 AM
Bel-Air II, Makati City
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, ... 6:30 AM
Pindangan Ruins, San Fernando City, La Union
Our Lady of Grace Parish, ... 6:45 AM
Grace Park, Caloocan City
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, ... 7:00 AM
San Antonio Vill., Makati City
St. Jude Parish, Poro, San Fernando City, La Union .... 5:00 PM

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •

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Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any Identification document (I.D.)

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In Loving Memory
On the **Birthday Anniversary** of
THE HONORABLE

QUINTIN PAREDES

(STATESMAN)

September 09, 1884 to September 09, 2001

Holy Masses will be offered in the following churches on September 09, 2001:

Christ the King Parish 6:30 a.m.
Green Meadows Subdivision, Quezon City
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine 6:00 a.m.
E. Rodriguez Sr. (Broadway)
New Manila, Quezon City
Manila Cathedral 7:00 a.m.
Intramuros, Manila
Our Lady of Edsa Shrine 6:30 a.m.
Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church 6:00 a.m.
13th Avenue, Quezon City
St. Joseph Parish Church 7:00 a.m.
Aurora Blvd., Quezon City
Quiapo Parish Church 6:00 a.m.
Quiapo, Manila

Request pious readers, relatives and friends to say a prayer in his memory.

MESSAGE OF THANKS
We, the family and relatives of the late

AGUSTIN L. VERZOSA SR.

who joined his Creator on August 17, 2001

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Gen. 1:3

Message of Thanks
The family of the late

EMMA DUMALIG LUCAS

(May 11, 1940 - August 24, 2001)
Panang, San Agustin, Isabela

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation from relatives and friends, for the prayers, flowers sent and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comfort us in our hour of bereavement.

Your kindness has been a source of strength and much comfort. May the good Lord bless you.

CONCEPCION BAQUISAL DAVID

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 29, 2001
at the age of 61 in Daly City, Cal., U.S.A.

Her bereaved husband **Ed**, brothers, sisters and in-laws - **Ben, Lita, Rory, Jojo & Luz, Toots & Fely** and **Charito**, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at #26 Naranghita St., Project 2, Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 9, at 2:00 p.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

"In My Father's house are many rooms
I am going there to prepare a place for you.
I will come back and take you to be with Me
That you may also be where I am"
- John 14:2-3

CONSUELO VENTURA CRUZ

Tuguegarao, Cagayan

July 22, 1920 - September 6, 2001

Loving Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great-grandmother
peacefully joined her Creator on Sept. 6, 2001.

We ask the pious reader to join us in prayers
for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel A,
La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

We thank those who condole with us in our time of grief.

Her bereaved husband ALFONSO. Her children EDGARDO and AIDA, MONINA and LESLIE MORENO, CIELO and KING AGUILUZ, BOOTSIE and OSCAR VIOLAGO, VICTOR (+), CONSUELO and CARLOS TAN JR., PERLA. Her grandchildren MIGUEL and CHRISTINE, ANTHONY (A.J.), MICHIKO and KENT, MALOU, CORRINA (+), PAULA (Tinay), ARTHUR (Bogs), ANGELA (Jinggay), PATRICIA and RUSSEL, MARY MARGARET (Princess), KARMEENA, MA. CLARA.
Her great-grandchildren ALEXIS, CAMY, NIKOLAI, MARTY and VICTORIA.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 11, 2001
at the Loyola Memorial Park at Marikina City
after the 9 A.M. Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

"Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and show ourselves glad in Him with psalms." –Psalms 95:2

CONSUELO VENTURA CRUZ

Beloved Mother-In-Law of our Founder
Amable R. Aguiluz V
and
Beloved Mother of our Treasurer
Cielo C. Aguiluz

peacefully joined her Creator on Sept. 6, 2001
at the age of 81.

The officers and staff of

THE AMA GROUP OF COMPANIES

joins her family in their hour of bereavement:

Her bereaved husband ALFONSO. Her children EDGARDO and AIDA, MONINA and LESLIE MORENO, CIELO and KING AGUILUZ, BOOTSIE and OSCAR VIOLAGO, VICTOR (+), CONSUELO and CARLOS TAN JR., PERLA. Her grandchildren MIGUEL and CHRISTINE, ANTHONY (A.J.), MICHIKO and KENT, MALOU, CORRINA (+), PAULA (Tinay), ARTHUR (Bogs), ANGELA (Jinggay), PATRICIA and RUSSEL, MARY MARGARET (Princess), KARMEENA, MA. CLARA. Her great-grandchildren ALEXIS, CAMY, NIKOLAI, MARTY and VICTORIA.

We request the pious reader to join us in praying
for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel A, La Funeraria Paz,
Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 11, 2001,
at the Loyola Memorial Park at Marikina City
after the 9 A.M. Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

People, Events & Products

Aries B. Espinosa, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

iBank introduces hassle-free checking account

THE INTERNATIONAL Exchange Bank (iBank) recently introduced "iCheck", a hassle-free interest-bearing checking account that is expertly packaged with unique benefits and advantages for utmost banking convenience.

With the "iCheck", clients save on time and effort by having issued checks recorded error-free through the carbonized check that leaves an automatic imprint on the check's duplicate copy. Furthermore, discriminating clients can order scenic checks from select designs exclusively developed for iBank.

The most compelling feature of the "iCheck" which sets it apart from the regular current accounts in the market is that checks can be encashed on-the-spot at any iBank branch nationwide regardless of which branch the account was opened. This is made possible through its on-line signature verification facility.

"The banking public today is a highly dynamic market who consider time as a valuable commodity not to be wasted over painstaking tasks such as updating, reconciling and recording checks. iCheck was conceptualized to meet the demands of this market for hassle-free banking," says Alfredo Guiao, iBank's marketing center head.

For access outside regular baking hours, "iCheck" comes with an iDeal ATM card accepted in more than 4,500 Megalink and Bancnet automatic teller machines. It also has a record book for easy reconciliation and updating of balances without having to wait for monthly bank statements.

Interested customers may enroll in iContact and phone banking service where access to accounts any time of the day or night is facilitated through an interactive voice response system. During business hours, the call center associates are on hand to give assistance and answer any inquiry.

Busy executives and individuals on the go can simply iText any balance inquiries, funds transfer, checkbook reorders and other transactions through the use of Smart mobile cellphone.

From June 1 to July 15, individuals who open an iCheck account with an initial deposit of P30,000 get a free carbonized starter check booklet. For details, call iBank's iContact Hotline at 878-8787.

PhP 1,000,000,000.00
Hotel Renovation Loan
March 21, 2001

MAKATI SHANGRI-LA, BPI SIGN ACCORD

Makati Shangri-La, Manila obtained a P1-B floating rate medium term loan from the Bank of the Philippine Islands. The loan, arranged by BPI Capital Corp. will be used to finance the renovation of some 703 rooms of the hotel. Signing the loan agreement are (seated, from left) B.M. Banzon, VP of BPI Capital; V.P. Formoso, treasurer of Kuok Philippine Properties Inc.; N.N. Alejo, SVP of BPI Capital; F.L. Gaspar, president of Kuok Philippine Properties Inc.; G.A. Buenaventura, EVP of BPI; C.A. Tejada, VP of BPI; A.M.C. Calma, regional financial controller of Makati Shangri-La and E. Nagayo, manager of BPI. Standing are officers of BPI capital, BPI and Makati Shangri-La's department heads.

Lotus.
PREMIUM
n IBM Company

EDSAMAIL GETS BOOST

IBM Philippines recently signed up Edsamail, the country's largest ISP with over 500,000 subscribers in its first year of operation, as the first company to be enabled under IBM's Premium e-Hosting program for service and application providers. As it gears up to be the leading regional Managed Services Provider (MSP) for messaging and storage services, Edsamail will utilize the full suite of IBM server hardware, systems software, storage and ready-to-use web-based rentable business applications developed by iemagine, the leading US-based provider of web-based applications for rent. iemagine's rentable software applications were developed using IBM Lotus ASP Solution Pack, providing a wealth of subscription-based business solutions to enable Edsamail subscribers to easily, securely and quickly collaborative via the Web.

The 'real' Santa Claus at World Bazaar

THE BIGGEST international bazaar ever to hit Philippine shores is taking place this December.

Worldbex Services International, organizer of the highly successful Worldbex 2001, and ABS-CBN's Bantay Bata 163, have joined hands for the staging of the World Bazaar Festival, a week-long Christmas shopping festival, which will be held from Dec. 19 to 25 at the World Trade Center.

This festival, the proceeds of which will be used mainly for Bantay Bata 163's various endeavors, will offer just about every Christmas gift item that one can think of – toys, clothes, sporting goods, books, music products, houseware, kitchenware, novelties, travel goods, home and office furnishings, perfumes and many others.

The World Bazaar offers a unique and exciting Christmas fair concept. To make it ideal for the entire family, the organizers will put up a breathtaking Kiddie Wonderland in the fully airconditioned venue. Kids will enjoy playing while their parents are busy shopping for Christmas presents. What's more, shoppers will virtually shop in various countries without leaving the Philippines since there will be an international village, which will offer products from all over the globe. Another highlight in this trade fair is the Celebrity Town where celebrities will sell their own Christmas bazaar products.

Expected to enhance the Christmas atmosphere during the week-long bazaar is the presence of The Real Santa Claus, who will fly in direct from Finland especially for this event. Santa will listen to the wishes of young shoppers and pose for pictures with them. Moreover, charitable institutions will enjoy a first peek at the World Bazaar on Dec. 19. The opening day highlights will include fun activities, games and a rousing program.

The bazaar merchants are expected to greatly benefit from this commercial event as more than 40,000 shoppers are anticipated to troop to the place, which is situated away from the crowded shopping malls. In addition, participating traders are very likely to reach their target market since there will be massive TV, radio and print advertising for the World Bazaar Festival. Applications and reservations will be accepted until Nov. 15.

For inquiries, interested parties may get in touch with Worldbex Services International at 531-6350 or 531-6374, or visit their office at 488 Boni Avenue corner San Joaquin Street, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.

BONG HIGH SC

SMART DONATES COMPUTERS

Wireless services leader Smart Communications Inc. recently donated computers to Paombong National High School as part of its community relations effort. In a simple turnover ceremony held at the high school's grounds, Smart's operations and maintenance center 2 head for Luzon, Jun Perez, handed over five personal computers to Antonio Pahati, school principal for the use of the students of Paombong National High School.

OREST PARK
N. LOREN LEGARDA-LEVISTE
Chairperson
TESDA
LOREN LEGARDA

TESDA-LUNTIANG PILIPINAS PROGRAM LAUNCH

Director general Lucy Lazo of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) and commissioner Myrna T. Yao of the National Council of Women of the Philippines (NCWP) assist Senator Loren Legarda in the launching of the Tesda-Luntiang Pilipinas program, a national urban tree growing project with Senator Legarda as chair and founder. The program seeks to promote and support the government's program of promoting environmental awareness and raising the level of consciousness of Filipinos on the importance of preserving and protecting the environment by beautifying the Tesda Central and all Tesda Regional and Provincial Offices and Center and making the same environment friendly to the community and the surrounding areas.

Piattos Nacho Pizza suits the discriminating taste

JACK n' Jill Piattos brings you a unique snacking experience with its new Jack n' Jill Piattos Nacho Pizza. It packs in the zany combination of pizza and tangy nacho cheese in a scrumptious Piattos chip.

This mouthwatering addition to Jack n' Jill Piattos is made for the adventurous and unique young adults who constantly search for unusual snacks to satisfy their discriminating taste. Bite into an exciting blend of Italian pizza and the rich tangy taste of Mexican nacho cheese in a unique hexagonal chip.

So capture the uniqueness of new Jack n' Jill Piattos Nacho Pizza flavor, available in supermarkets and groceries nationwide.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING &
ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE
MIDTOWN

BGC BAGS GREEN AWARD

Bonifacio Gas Corporation (BGC), the company that introduced a world-class pipe-in gas system to the country, recently won the Philippine Green Buildings/Green Resorts Outstanding Award for successfully implementing energy efficiency improvements for the Fort Bonifacio Development Center (FBDC) office building. The award was presented to BGC by Cyril del Callar, Undersecretary of the Department of Energy (DOE); Oscar Reyes, president of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (PSPC); Rosario Calderon, technical adviser of Usaid Global Climate Changes; Peter DuPont, managing director of the International Institute for Energy Conservation (IIEC) – Asia and Ernesto Casis, president of Energy Management Association of the Philippines (Enmap).

BITS Clips

HSBC Home Loan Madness

HSBC opens its branches at Quezon Avenue and Greenhills Commercial Complex today, Sept. 8, for customers looking for a new home or searching for a better deal for their existing home loan. The Bank's team of highly trained financial advisors will be available to make individual presentations using HSBC's Advanced Home Loan Simulator, a computer program designed in Hong Kong that shows how customers can significantly reduce interest payments and customize the home loan package to suit their financial needs and circumstances. Interested individuals need to set an appointment to reserve limited slots at 878-5151.

Flower arrangement seminar at UP

THE GOLDEN Treasures Skills and Training Center will conduct a livelihood seminar on how to operate and make fresh flower arrangements the easy way at the training room of F. Benitez Alumni Center, Magsaysay Avenue corner Ylanan Street, University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. The seminar set today, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. is open to those who want to venture into the flower shop business. Those interested may coordinate with Jenalyn at 951-4594 or 951-7837.

National Book Awards at bookfair

THE 12th Philippine Bookfair which is ongoing until Sunday, Sept. 9 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Mandaluyong City, encourages all to "take reading step higher" and enhance not just the cognitive and emotional skills of young and old alike through a treasure trove of quality books, but also to appreciate the exceptional works of the finest wordsmiths in the country. A major highlight of the premier book event is the 2000 National Book Awards slated today, Sept. 8. The awards ceremonies begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Function Room B, Megatrade Hall, level 5, SM Megamall B, Mandaluyong City. The winning books are considered the best books published in 2000. For inquiries, call Primetrade Asia at 896-0661 or 896-0682.

Delegates to observe Jitse-Phil pilot test

THE JAPANESE government has sent representatives here to observe the pilot test of Jitse-Phil, or Japanese Information Technology Standard Examination of the Philippines tomorrow in Manila and Cebu. This was disclosed by Yoshimasa Sakai, Commercial Attache of the Japanese Embassy in Manila, who has been closely coordinating both Japanese and Philippine efforts in regard to the project. According to Sakai, the implementation of the exams in Cebu will be monitored by a team headed by Satoshi Hayashi, manager of the Japanese Information Technology Engineers Examination Center (JITEC). On the other hand, the group that will observe the Manila exams is headed by JITEC deputy manager Mitsuru Suzuki. Jitse-Phil, a world-class certification exam which covers the entire breadth of IT, will further raise the level of expertise of Filipino IT professionals and give them an advantage when seeking employment in Japanese firms here and abroad. The IT Foundation of the Philippines (ITFP) is the implementing agency for Jitse-Phil. Some 1,000 IT students and professionals will take the exam in designated testing sites at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City and University of San Carlos in Talamban, Cebu.

MARYKNOLL CLASS '66 HOMECOMING

The Marynoll High School Class '66 practices for their 75th Alumni Homecoming on Sept. 8. Photo shows (sitting, from left) Lulu Sotto, Shanta Estrada, Pinky Puno, Babot Oreta, Cindy Albert (standing, from left) Lot Ortiz, Verna Albano, Rica Villalon, Linda Samson, Carrie Pineda-Ibarra, Kookie Lu, Cecy Esguerra and Pinky Tanjangco.

VOLUNTEERISM IN ACTION

Meralco Foundation Inc. (MFI), in keeping with the Corporate Social Responsibility Week celebration of the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF), conducted a blood-letting project recently in cooperation with San Juan de Dios Hospital (SJDH). Shown above are MFI officials Col. Alex T. Escaño (center, in barong) and Joji Fider, vice president for organization, posing with the doctors and medtech staff of SJDH. Lower photo shows the scholars of MFInstitute and MFI employees donating blood, their share in the PNRC blood letting drive.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Shabu: a potent high that kills your brain cells

TESSA R. SALAZAR

WANT to experience an intense sensation, a "rush" extremely pleasurable that lasts for a few minutes? You can, but this is the price you have to pay: damaged brain cells, respiratory problems, cardiovascular collapse, even death.

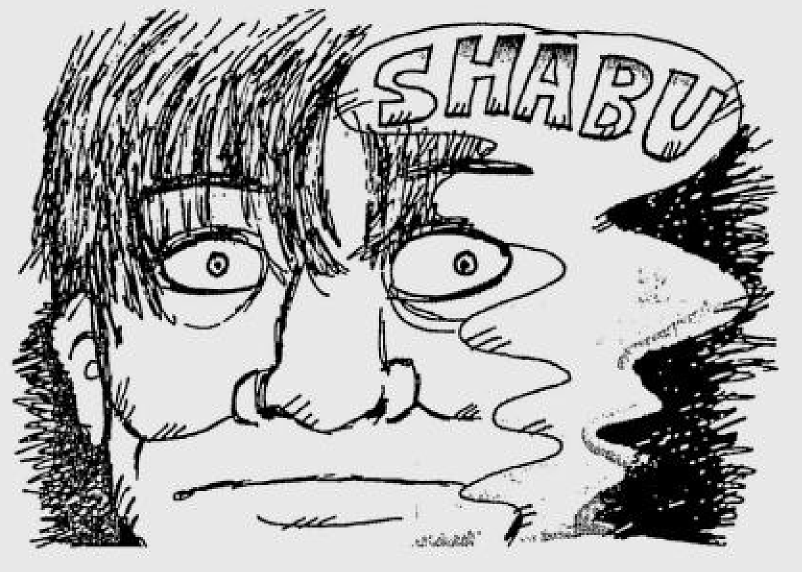
This is the double-edged power of methamphetamine hydrochloride, or shabu as it is popularly known in the Philippines.

Taking the drug releases high levels of the neurotransmitter dopamine that stimulates the brain cells and enhances one's moods and body movements. It is taken orally, intranasally (snorted) or intravenously.

Even small amounts can produce euphoria, alertness, paranoia, decreased appetite and increased physical activity.

The bad side of methamphetamine is that, aside from causing heart failure, brain damage and stroke, it induces extreme, acute psychiatric and psychological symptoms leading to criminal behavior.

Shabu is just one of the many street names for methamphetamine hydrochloride. It is also known as "meth," "speed," "crank," "ice" and "chalk." Crank is the powdery methamphetamine hydrochloride. Ice is the clear chunky crystal form of pure methamphetamine hydrochloride, known as the "smokable" form of the drug.



Smoking or injecting shabu produces effects within five to 10 seconds. Snorting or ingesting orally produces euphoria described as "a high but not an intense rush." Snorting will produce this effect within three to five minutes. Ingesting will produce the effects within 15 to 20 minutes.

The short-term physical effects of shabu include pupil dilation, dizziness, tooth grinding, impaired speech, dry or itchy skin, loss of appetite, acne, sores, numbness and sweating and respiratory disorders.

The drug can affect one's health and bring about athetosis (writhing jerky or flailing movements), irritability, extreme nervousness, insomnia, confusion, tremors, anxiety, aggression, incessant talking, hyperthermia and convulsions.

Hyperthermia, an extreme rise in body temperature, and convulsions sometimes can result to death.

Apart from chest pain and hypertension, shabu users can also experience accelerated heartbeat, elevated blood pressure. There can also be irreversible damage to blood vessels in the brain.

And that's not all.

Shabu use also has long-term effects on health.

These include fatal kidney and lung disorders, brain damage, liver damage, blood clots, chronic depression, hallucinations, violent and aggressive behavior, malnutrition, disturbed personality development, deficient immune system and methamphetamine psychosis (a mental disorder that may be paranoid psychosis or may mimic schizophrenia).

Methamphetamine's effects on pregnancy could be devastating. Babies can be born addicted to the drug. They can have birth defects, low birth weight, tremors, excessive crying, attention deficit disorder and behavior disorders.

There are some telltale signs that one can watch out for to detect if someone is using shabu.

Users exhibit anxiousness, nervousness, incessant talking, extreme moodiness and irritability. Some show repetitious behavior such as picking at skin or pulling out the hair. They could also suffer from sleep disturbances, have a false sense of confidence and power, exhibit aggressive or violent behavior, show disinterest in previously enjoyed activities and manifest severe depression.

Shabu addiction is very difficult to treat. Users are often too excitable and resistant to any form of intervention. Will power alone cannot cure shabu addicts because prolonged use of the drug causes changes in the brain.

And there is a high possibility of relapse among former users because there are psychiatric, social and biological components to shabu dependence.

Shabu has consistently ranked first among the most abused drugs in the Philippines since it gained popularity in 1994.

According to the Dangerous Drugs Board, 94 percent of drug abusers use shabu. The second most commonly abused narcotic, marijuana is only used by 37 percent even though the Philippines is a marijuana-cultivating country.

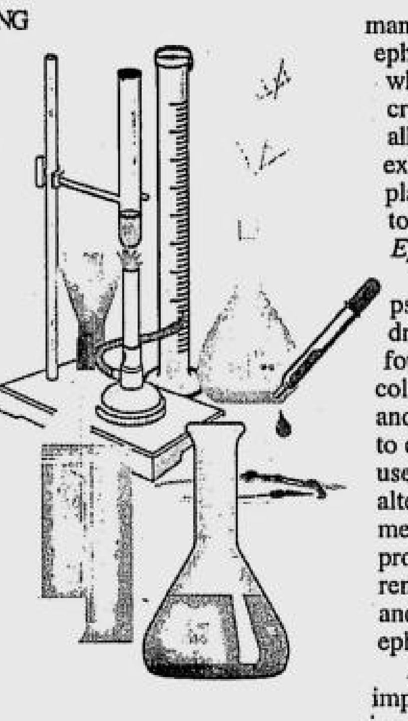
DDB executive director Bernardo T. Lastimoso said that among the 6,349 newly admitted and readmitted cases in rehabilitation centers, 88.23 percent are shabu users.

How is shabu made?

MANUFACTURING methamphetamine, or shabu, is simple.

It does not require agriculture, specialized equipment, or advanced technical training.

Clandestine shabu laboratories are relatively easy to set up and conceal because they require only a few chemicals and just some basic equipment. Laboratories come in all sizes and are found in a variety of locations—from residential areas, to hotels, bathrooms, garages and kitchens, even in cars.



A shabu "cook" is not required to know much of chemistry. The tools used are simple household items but the ignitable, corrosive and toxic chemicals involved in making it can cause explosions, toxic fumes and damage to health and the environment.

Often, the "cooks" just follow a handwritten recipe. Some learned how to manufacture methamphetamine from underground publications or from prison inmates.

The main chemical ingredient in shabu manufacturing is ephedrine, a white crystalline alkaloid extracted from a plant belonging to the genus *Ephedra*.

Sometimes, pseudoephedrine, which is found in many cold medications and thus easier to obtain, is used as an alternative. The medicines are processed to remove buffers and produce ephedrine.

Another important ingredient is hydroiodic acid, which can be created by combining red phosphorous and iodine.

There have been reports that some drug dealers mix alum (*tawas*) to shabu. According to Dangerous Drugs Board executive director Bernardo T. Lastimoso, while this would increase the volume of the drug, it would reduce the drug's desired effect.

"As for (the belief that mixing shabu with *tawas*) is deadly, no scientific paper has yet to prove this is so," Lastimoso said.

The proximity of China—a known major drug route—and the Philippines' long, unguarded coastlines make the country an easy transit and drop-off point for smuggling illegal drugs, said Lastimoso. *Tessa R. Salazar*

Is there a shabu laboratory in your neighborhood?

Many people may be unaware that they're living near a shabu laboratory. Here are some things to look for:

- Unusual, strong odors (like cat urine, ether, ammonia, acetone or other chemicals).
- Residences with windows blacked out.
- Renters who pay their landlords in cash. (Most drug dealers trade exclusively in cash.)
- Lots of traffic—people coming and going at unusual times. There may be little traffic during the day, but at night the activity increases dramatically.
- Excessive trash including large amounts of items such as: antifreeze containers, lantern fuel cans, red chemically stained coffee filters, drain cleaner and duct tape.
- Unusual amounts of clear glass containers being brought into the home.

Presence of the following items could indicate the existence of a shabu laboratory:

Alcohol
Ether
Benzene
Toluene/paint thinner
Freon
Acetone
Chloroform
Camp stove fuel/Coleman fuel
Starting fluid
Anhydrous ammonia
"Heet"
White gasoline
Phenyl-2-propane
Phenylacetone
Phenylpropanolamine
Iodine crystals
Red phosphorous
Black iodine
Lye (red devil lye)
Drano
Muriatic/hydrochloric acid
Battery acid/sulfuric acid
Epsom salts
Batteries/lithium
Sodium metal
Wooden matches
Propane cylinders
Hot plates
Ephedrine
Cold tablets
Bronchodialators
Energy boosters
Rock salt
Diet aids

FROM: KOCH CRIME INSTITUTE

On pi and calculators

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

PART of the pleasure of receiving frequent e-mail from readers is opening my inbox and not knowing what will appear. An example is this letter from Benedict Ouano of Woodrow Hills, Antipolo City (baouano@edsamail.com.ph) whose questions range over quite a variety of topics.

I enjoy reading your column in the INQUIRER. Though I am an engineer and am supposed to largely know your subject area, there is still a lot that I can learn. These may sound elementary, but here are my questions:

1.Why does a cola drink that is very cold, but has not yet turned to ice, suddenly solidify a few seconds after it is opened?

I confess you got me here. I asked several of my science colleagues, who have not really witnessed this phenomenon, and thus could not shed light on it. The easiest answer (and scientists, by the principle of Occam's Razor, prefer simple answers to elaborately constructed ones), is freezing. The process wherein a liquid turns into a solid is freezing (as when liquid cola, to use your term, solidifies). However, I am not sure if this is what you meant. Perhaps you can describe in more detail what you have observed. Anyway, if you would like a review of the physical transitions among solids, liquids and gases, we have freezing, evaporation (liquid to gas), melting (solid to liquid), condensation (gas to liquid) and sublimation (solid to gas without passing through the liquid state).

2. Is it true that the value of pi is not exact and that mathematicians are still computing as to when the decimal portion ends? If this is so, a problem which has the area of a circle given as a whole number is actually mathematically wrong, i.e. a circle can never have an exact area.

Pi is a nonterminating, nonrepeating decimal, which means that the decimal portion does not end—it goes on forever. Some mathematicians since time immemorial have made it their hobby (for an obsessed few, their life's work) to compute as many decimal places as possible, and with the advent of computers, pi can actually be approximated to as many decimal places as are useful. However, if you are not comfortable with the infinity of decimal places, you can just think of pi as a nice fraction—22/7, which I assure you, will work well for most real-life applications. As for the area of a circle, normally we mathematicians just say it in terms of pi, as in 9 pi, 16 pi, and so on.

Can the area of a circle be exactly a whole number?

Yes, of course. Think of a circle with radius equal to 3/square root of pi. We know that the area of a circle is given by the formula pi (radius)^2. If you enter this value in the formula, you will have an area of pi (3/square root of pi)^2, which will give you pi (9/pi), which is 9 square units. I know this example may sound contrived, but what I want to stress here is that there is nothing mystical about pi—it is just a number that happens to be useful in many situations.

3. The calculator in Windows 95 can be set to standard or scientific. In five years of using this system, I only lately discovered that both modes treat differently the hierarchy of basic mathematical operations. While the scientific mode follows the MDAS hierarchy, the standard does not. I understand MDAS has long been the standard of mathematicians, so there should be no distinction. Could this be an oversight?

Before you asked this question, I did not even know that there are two modes in the calculator of Windows 95. I never use Windows 95 to do computations—we have Casio or Texas Instruments, which are portable and handy. Anyway, I looked through the modes you described.

You are right. Since basic algebra, students have been drilled on the so-called hierarchy of operations, which means, when confronted with a long equation with successive operations (and very few parentheses or other grouping symbols to help), students are supposed to do multiplication and division first (MD), then addition and subtraction (AS) last. When communicating among mathematicians, scientists and other people who are well-versed in mathematics, this is indeed the standard.

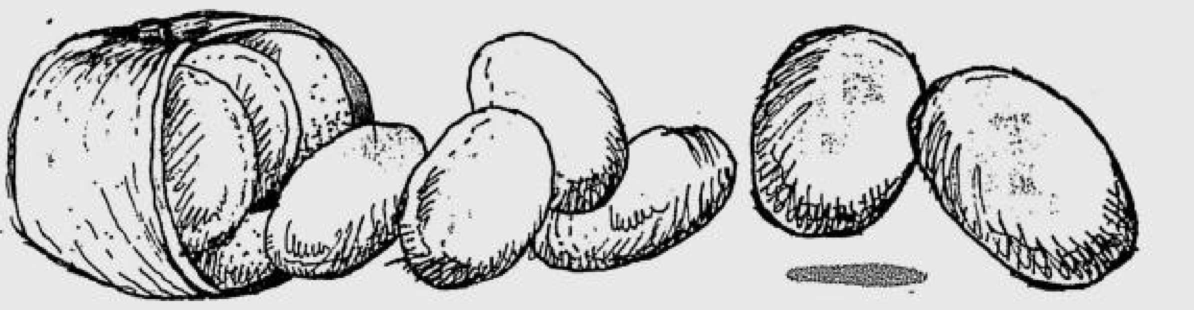
So why does Windows 95 have another mode? I have not come across the reason in research (and believe me, I asked a lot of people), but I have a strong suspicion that it exists for people who have conveniently forgotten the MDAS order (or who didn't even know it in the first place), but who need speedy answers to their calculations in the order that they think (and print) them. I personally do not like the fact that the order can be eviscerated just like that, but remember, we are talking about convenience here. (In fact, in many later calculators, you can actually input operations in the order that you do them, which means that you can actually do addition before multiplication.) But why call this standard? Does this mean that most people have forgotten their algebra? Your guess is as good as mine.

4. When I was young, our speedboats were made of matchsticks, the tall portions of which were applied with a small amount of slightly melted detergent soap (bar). What made those matchsticks move and how?

I cannot visualize your toy boats very accurately—were they made of only matchsticks and soap (nothing else)? I would think the matchsticks would be the "sail" of the boat—what about the boat (bottom) itself? I tried replicating the experiment at home, to no avail. (I had to use small pieces of cartolina and popsicle sticks, which made the boats float, but certainly I could not apply the adjective "speedy" to them.)

Soap has properties of adhesion and cohesion—they would tend to hold the matchsticks together and of course their molecules interact with those of water. But what accounts for the speed? I don't know. Again, perhaps you can write back and describe your childhood game more thoroughly.

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D. is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She also writes a column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net every Wednesday. She can be reached at ADMU, Math Dept, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, or at blessbook@yahoo.com.)



The case of the deadly santol seeds

BY RAFAEL CASTILLO, MD

MEDICAL FILES

IF you're fond of *santol* and you swallow the seeds when you eat it, you are exposing yourself to a potentially life-threatening risk.

Mameng A., a 55-year-old housewife, has always been fond of santol for as long as she could remember. She would eagerly look forward to the *santol* season each year and made sure she always had ample stock of the fruit in her refrigerator. Her meal would never be complete without *santol*, serving both as her appetizer and dessert. She never swallowed the seeds though until recently when her best friend convinced her that it was fun swallowing them. She tried it and she agreed with her best friend, until a few months ago when she developed severe abdominal pains accompanied by progressive abdominal distention. It all started when she had eaten three *santol* fruits, swallowing all the seeds.

For three days, Mameng took various antispasmodics and painkillers, which only afforded temporary relief of the pain. Finally, the pain became unbearable making her double up to ease it somehow. She was rushed by her then frantic husband to the Ospital ng Maynila Medical Center. Dr. Janix de Guzman, surgical resident, diagnosed her to have intestinal obstruction and his consultants agreed with his assessment and recommendation to do an emergency operation (exploratory laparotomy) on Mameng.

The doctors found an obstruction in the large intestines with a hole or perforation just before the obstruction. Several *santol* seeds were found lodged in that area, with the tip of one seed protruding out of the wall of the intestines. All the doctors concurred that the seeds caused Mameng's bowel obstruction and perforation.

Warning

Dr. Reynaldo Joson, head of surgery at the OMMC, warns in an advisory issued by his department that *santol* seeds inside the intestines can cause serious, even potentially fatal complications. "Most of the time, the seeds will be passed out through the anus during bowel movement," Dr. Joson explains. "However, in some cases, the seeds may cause intestinal obstruction by sticking together to form a hard bolus of seeds or by completely plugging the intestinal lumen that has been previously and partially constricted by a disease like a tumor or tuberculosis."

Dr. Joson continues to explain that the seeds may also cause perforation of the intestines. After the fibers enveloping the seed have been digested, the remaining shell, which is indigestible, is usually sharp at its two ends. These sharp ends can perforate a normal intestinal wall, especially if it has been weakened by a disease or a generative condition such as repeated inflammation or diverticulosis of the intestines.

The resulting perforation will result in a spillage of feces into the abdominal cavity causing peritonitis, which is a serious infection of the lining of the abdomen and the entire abdominal cavity. If surgery is not done promptly, the infection can get into the bloodstream known as septicemia, which may lead to death.

Intestinal obstruction and perforation caused by swallowed *santol* seeds require resection-anastomosis surgery which consists of cutting out and discarding the damaged parts of the intestines and reconnecting the cut ends together. Occasionally, the surgeon may do a colostomy, which is an opening in the abdominal wall that serves as the temporary anus of the patient where the feces will pass.

Complications

Based on the OMMC experience, complications including deaths due to swallowed santol seeds are more frequent in the older age group. The age range of patients in the OMMC re-port was 45 to 65 years. "This is most likely due to the higher incidence of abnormalities in the intestines in the older age group compared to the younger population," explains Dr. Joson.

The OMMC surgical department has started disseminating information about the dangers of swallowing santol seeds. Although the complications are not as common in the young as in the middle age or older age groups, the outpatient department of the hospital makes an effort to forewarn both the young and the old. "As we know, habits are hard to break when it's deeply instilled in the individual at a young age; one grows old with the habit," says Dr. Joson.

According to Dr. Joson, the debilitation and deaths associated with swallowing *santol* seeds have reached such a magnitude to consider it a public health problem. The OMMC surgical department cautions that this problem carries a risk of premature death, even in an otherwise healthy individual. "We hope to significantly reduce the occurrence of these premature deaths by educating the public," Dr. Joson stresses.

Mameng was fortunate to survive her brush with death caused by swallowing *santol* seeds. She was discharged from the hospital one week following her emergency surgery. She still gets an occasional craving for santol, but recalling the sad episode she just had instantly suppresses it. The craving can probably wait until the next *santol* season, Mameng tells herself. Will she swallow the seeds again? She replies with an emphatic "Never."

(Medical Files is based on the case histories of actual patients. Some information have been changed to hide the patient's identity. Apart from the medical information, it stresses the socio-psychological impact of the disease on the patient. Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. For comments or inquiries, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.)

BUSINESS

BSP approves ₱30B in dollar-linked borrowings

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has given its go-ahead to the application of the Department of Finance to issue P30 billion worth of low-yield, dollar-linked debt instruments.

The final approval will pave the way for three investment banks mandated by the DOF to underwrite the borrowing. These were Deutsche Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., and Multinational Investment Bancorporation.

The plan was for the three banks to issue initially some P10 billion to P15 billion worth of two- and three-year instruments, low-yielding on the part of the investor, but designed to help ease the pressure on the peso.

The local currency's recovery was recently stalled as it showed recent signs of weakness. Yesterday, it closed at 51.38 to a dollar from 51.33 to $1 the other day.

"We have given our final approval to the dollar-linked instruments," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The debt papers to be issued soon would offer prevailing dollar-linked interest rates and would be paid based on the peso-dollar exchange rate at the time of maturity.

"The issuance will be able to help the government ease the pressure on the foreign exchange market by issuing dollar-linked instruments. Also, the government will be borrowing at rates favorable compared to the prevailing market rate," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho earlier said.

Sources in the financial market said the yields on the two-year debt paper would be about 9.5 percent while the three-year paper would offer a yield ranging from 10.3 to 10.6 percent.

The yields were comparable to the rates of the dollar-denominated Republic of the Philippine debt papers and were much lower than treasury bills, which offer a yield of 10.86 percent for six-month papers.

Buenaventura said the new borrowing would discourage people from buying dollars in the spot market and investing these in dollar-denominated papers.

"This new instrument behaves like a dollar investment so there would be no need to buy dollars in the spot market," the central bank chief said.

For instance, a bank or an investor that would buy P100 million worth of these papers would earn a yield based on the prevailing rate of two- and three-year Philippine debt papers.

But the principal amount would be paid on the prevailing exchange rate at the time of maturity. If the peso falls in two to three years to a level lower than when the investment was made, then the investor gets an additional return.

If the peso gets stronger by the time the debt paper matures, then the government would have additional earnings.

"The instrument aims to reduce pressure on domestic interest rate as the notes will fill in part of the financing gap that would otherwise be met by increased domestic borrowing," Camacho earlier said.

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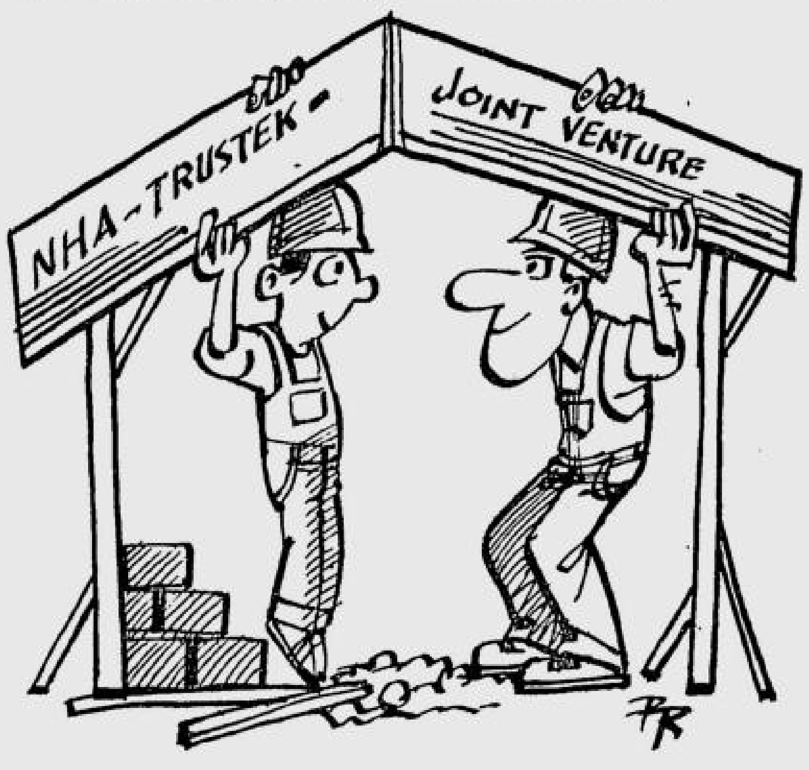

NHA, Aussie firm form housing unit

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE NATIONAL Housing Authority has formed a 50-50 joint venture with Australian builder Trustek Conclad Pty. Ltd., which will provide cheaper and more durable construction materials for socialized housing projects and public school building.

Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council Chair Michael Defensor said the NHA invested P60 million in the venture, which would tap Trustek's cladding and roofing technology using locally available raw materials.

He said the project was timely considering the huge backlog in housing demand and the government's shrinking finances to bankroll more housing projects.

Defensor said the NHA chose Trustek as its partner because the company has offered the cheapest and most durable building material technology among the agency's 70 accredited suppliers.

Defensor said that with Trustek's technology, the cost of building a standard low-cost unit would go down sharply from P150,000 to P60,000 each. For public school buildings, a classroom using Trustek's technology would cost P150,000 each from the current rate of P250,000.

Defensor said Trustek has a standard 50-year guarantee on all its projects and the NHA could decide to walk away from the partnership if there were other providers that could supply the same quality of materials at a lower cost.

He stressed that the NHA-Trustek venture would still have to compete for the supply contract of NHA projects and for development projects of private firms. "Our materials are durable and flexible to use that several private developers have expressed interest in our product for their projects," Defensor said.

Trustek's building and roofing technology has been used in low-cost housing projects in Australia and South Africa and it is currently being introduced in Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Banks OK ₱1-B loan for port operator

By Doris C. Dumlao

PORT operator Asian Terminal Inc. has secured a P1-billion loan facility from a consortium of nine banks led by DBS Bank Philippines Inc. and Deutsche Bank AG Manila.

"The proceeds of the loan will be used for financing capital expenditures and refinancing existing loans," ATI said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The disclosure said the new loan, which was signed by ATI and the creditors yesterday, would mature in three years.

"The above event is expected to have a positive impact on the company's current and future operations, its financial position and results of operations," ATI said.

Listed in 1996, ATI, formerly Marina Ports Services Inc., is the exclusive operator of the south harbor terminal in Manila. The company is owned by the All AsiaCapital consortium and ATI Holdings Inc.

ATI provides services like container terminal handling, stevedoring and storage management. It also operates a grain terminal in Bataan and an inland clearance depot and logistics center in Laguna.

ATI is currently going full-blast with the upgrading and expansion of its flagship project at the Manila port area. It has mapped out a P1.2-billion expansion program for this year, aiming to improve its vessel and yard productivity through the deployment of a new cargo handling equipment, the development of additional storage areas and the upgrading of reefer facilities.

Recently, ATI commissioned a brand new ship-to-shore container crane in line with its commitment to improve the quality of service in its ports.

Additional storage areas have also been constructed in preparation for the expected increase in container volumes. Additional stacking area adjacent to the main container yard that will service over 30,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) has been completed.

ATI received the new cargo handling equipment, along with two rubber-tired gantry cranes, from Mitsui Engineering and Shipbuilding Co. in Tamano, Japan.

With the ongoing improvements at the South Harbor, ATI said it expected its general (non-containerized) cargo terminal to strengthen its existing market share of about 88 percent of the Port of Manila volume.

Double Orange Delight

1-1/2 cups NESTLÉ CREAM
3 tbsps. orange juice concentrate
2 large oranges, peeled & sectioned
3 tbsps. semi-sweet chocolate chips
2 tsps. butter

Combine cream and orange juice in a bowl. Divide into 4 serving plates. Arrange orange sections on top. Combine chocolate chips and butter. Melt over low heat. Drizzle over oranges and serve. Serves: 4

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER C1

SaturdaySPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Treat of the Week

Hollywood releases lineup of fall movies

PAOLO Montalban is one of the Fil-American actors in "American Adobo," which is starting its run in the States this month.

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BY DAVID GERMAIN

HIGHLIGHTS of Hollywood's fall film lineup (release times may change and some films play in limited release):

September

"American Adobo." A comedy directed by Laurice Guillen about five Filipino-American pals coming to grips with their romantic and professional choices.

"The American Astronaut." A space traveler swaps flesh of the opposite sex to all-male and all-female cultures in this surreal musical.

"Big Trouble." Tim Allen and Rene Russo head an ensemble cast brought together by a mysterious suitcase. Barry Sonnenfeld ("Get Shorty") directs.

"Dinner Rush." A night in the life of a family Italian restaurant turned trendy Tribeca eatery. Starring Danny Aiello.

"Don't Say A Word." A catatonic woman holds a clue in the kidnapping of a psychiatrist's daughter. Michael Douglas stars.

"The Endurance." Narrated by Liam Neeson, this documentary traces the doomed Antarctic journey of Ernest Shackleton and his expedition's harrowing voyage home.

"The Glass House." An orphaned girl suspects nasty things of her seemingly ideal new guardians. Leelee Sobieski and Diane Lane star.

"Glitter." Mariah Carey as a singer struggling to overcome a tough childhood and the pressures of fame. Delayed from late-summer after Carey's emotional breakdown.

"Go Tigers!" This documentary examines how a high school football team helps maintain community pride in a rust-belt town.

"Haiku Tunnel." The perfect office temp finds his life unraveling when he accepts a permanent assignment.

"Hardball." Keanu Reeves plays a street hustler drawn into coaching a youth baseball team in inner-city Chicago to pay off his gambling debts.

"Hearts In Atlantis." Anthony Hopkins is a mysterious lodger with magical powers who befriends a troubled boy. Based on Stephen King's book.

"Iron Monkey." A martial-arts adventure about two heroes thrown together in an effort to bring down a corrupt government.

"Liam." Stephen Frears directs this tale of poverty among Irish immigrants in 1930s Liverpool. Featuring Ian Hart.

"L.I.E." A teen-age boy struggling with his mother's death falls into bad company with a school friend and a sexually predatory older man.

"Megiddo Omega Code 2." Michael York returns in this followup to the Christian end-of-the-world tale that was a surprise indie hit in 1999.

"The Musketeer." A new take on "The Three Musketeers," with newcomer Justin Chambers as D'Artagnan. Co-starring Tim Roth and Catherine Deneuve.

"On The Line." 'N Sync's Lance Bass and Joey Fatone in a romance about a young man trying to find the dream girl he met on Chicago's elevated train.

"Our Lady of The Assassins." A writer returns home to Colombia and becomes involved in the violent underbelly of Medellin. Barbet Schroeder ("Reversal of Fortune") directs.

"Rock Star." The leader of a heavy-metal tribute group (Mark Wahlberg) is tapped to replace the singer in the real band. Jennifer Aniston co-stars.

"Sidewalks of New York." Edward Burns wrote, directed and co-stars in an ensemble comedy about the quest for love in Manhattan. Stanley Tucci and Heather Graham co-star.

"Soul Survivors." A college student is tormented by supernatural visions after surviving a car wreck. Eliza Dushku, Wes Bentley and Casey Affleck star.

"Training Day." Denzel Washington is the bad cop in this police drama about a corrupt veteran teamed with an idealistic rookie (Ethan Hawke).

"Two Can Play at That Game." Vivica Fox and Morris Chestnut are a couple knee-deep in the games of love in this battle-of-the-sexes comedy.

"Va Savoir." Three men and three women maneuver the maze of love in this comedy about a theater troupe staging a play in Paris.

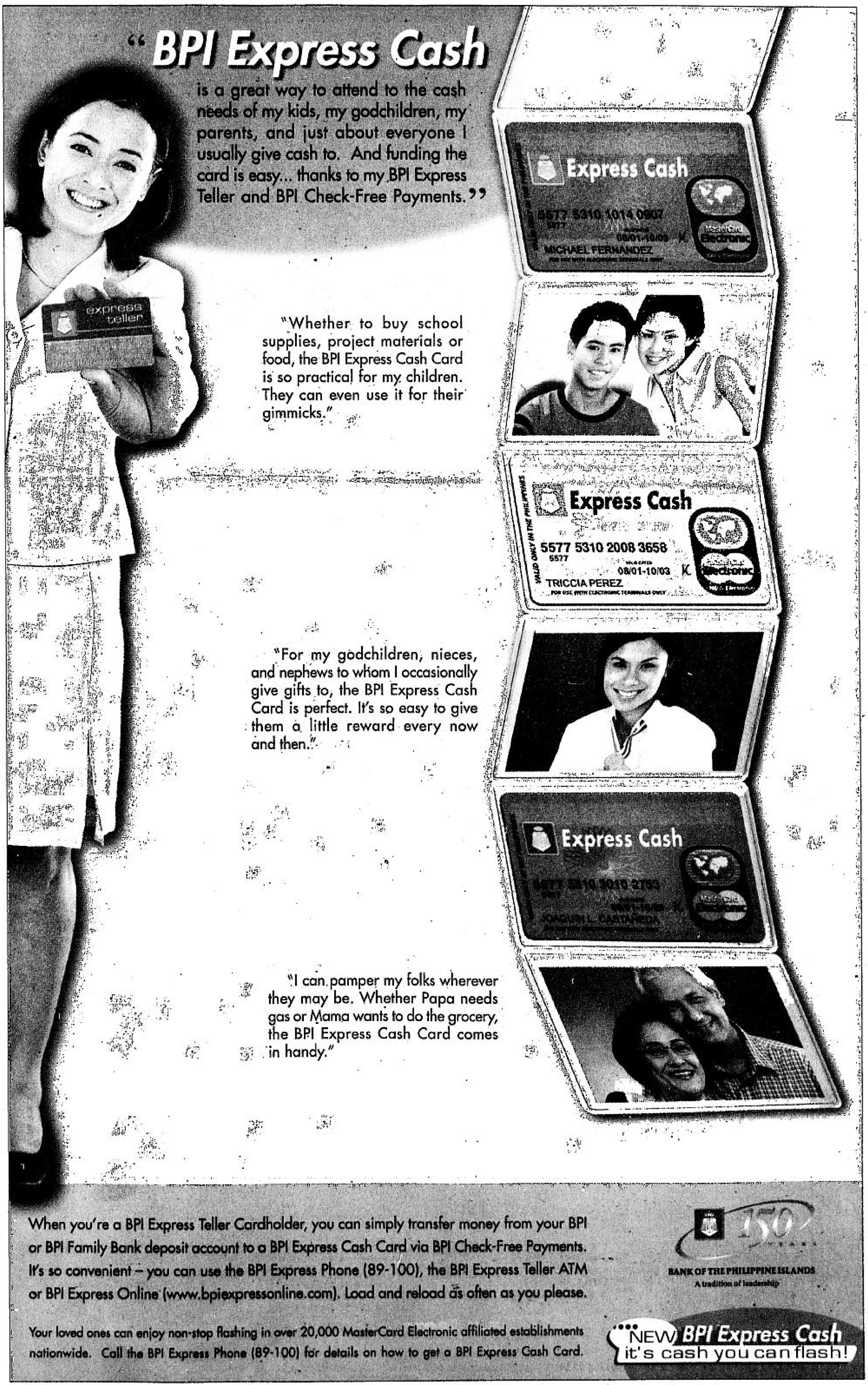
"Zoolander." Ben Stiller co-wrote, directs and stars in a comedy about a male model who learns the fashion world is a front for a world conspiracy.

October

"Bandits." Bruce Willis and Billy Bob Thornton are prison escapees on a bank-heist spree in Barry

HOLLYWOOD/p.C2

BRUCE Willis and Billy Bob Thornton in "Bandits."



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Hollywood releases lineup of fall movies

(From page C1)

Levinson's comedy. Cate Blanchett co-stars.

"Bangkok Dangerous." A mute assassin on Thailand's mean streets meets a woman who may hold the key to his salvation.

"Bones." Rapper Snoop Dogg stars as the avenging spirit of a murdered man haunting the new tenants of a slum building.

"Collateral Damage." Arnold Schwarzenegger is a vengeful firefighter stalking a terrorist whose bomb killed his wife and son.

"Corky Romano." A veterinarian (Chris Kattan) poses as an FBI agent to help foil the prosecution of his mobster father (Peter Falk).

"Donnie Darko." A teen-ager tries to decipher the visions and fractured reality he perceives. With Jake Gyllenhaal and Drew Barrymore.

"Fat Girl." French film about an overweight teen who gets a voyeuristic introduction to romance courtesy of her beautiful sister.

"Focus." William H. Macy and Laura Dern star in a drama about anti-Semitism in New York City during World War II.

"From Hell." Jack the Ripper gets a makeover in this chiller starring Johnny Depp and Heather Graham.

"Grateful Dawg." A documentary exploring the musical kinship and collaboration of Jerry Garcia and David Grisman.

"Heist." Gene Hackman and Danny DeVito star in David Mamet's thriller about a daring robbery.

"High Heels and Low Lifes." Minnie Driver and Mary McCormack spice up their boring lives by trying to extort stolen loot from bank robbers.

SINGER Mariah Carey topbills "Glitter."

"The Human Body." The ultimate flesh film, this documentary for large-screen formats takes a fantastic voyage into the body's inner workings.

"Joy Ride." Highway thriller pits a vengeful trucker against three travelers (Paul Walker, Steve Zahn, Leelee Sobieski).

"K-Pax." Kevin Spacey and Jeff Bridges star in a drama about a mental patient convinced he's about to return to his distant home planet.

"La Cienaga." A long, hot summer strains relations for an Argentinian family.

"The Last Castle." The Sundance Kid gets court-martialed. Robert Redford is a fallen general in a power struggle with a military prison warden (James Gandolfini).

"Life As A House." A dying architect (Kevin Kline) uses a house-raising project to reconnect with his estranged loved ones.

"Max Keeble's Big Move." Thinking he's moving to a new school, a bullied teen exacts farewell retaliation, then learns he's staying put after all.

"Mulholland Drive." "Twin Peaks" goes to the city in David Lynch's cryptic tale of an ingenue seeking love and stardom in Hollywood.

"No Man's Land." Enemy soldiers stuck in a trench become the focus of a media circus in this war satire set in Bosnia.

"Novocaine." A dentist (Steve Martin) is sucked into a seedy world of murder by a new patient. Laura Dern and Helena Bonham Carter co-star.

"Riding In Cars with Boys." Drew Barrymore stars as a teen whose promising future takes a turn when she becomes pregnant. Directed by Penny Marshall.

MICHAEL Douglas stars in "Don't Say A Word."

"Serendipity." The fates decide whether John Cusack and Kate Beckinsale should be together in this whimsical romance.

"13 Ghosts." A remake of William Castle's horror flick about a family terrorized by nasties from the other side in a house they've inherited.

"Vulgar." A cross-dressing clown gets revenge after he's raped at a bachelor party. Executive produced by Kevin Smith ("Clerks," "Dogma").

"Waking Life." Richard Linklater's freeform examination of reality uses eerie animation created by digitally "painting" over live-action footage.

"The Wash." Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg star in this farce about two roomies working at the car wash.

November

"The Affair of The Necklace." Hilary Swank in a costume drama about a disenfranchised royal seeking vengeance at the court of King Louis XVI.

"Amelie." A Paris cafe waitress (Audrey Tautou) enriches the lives of the deserving and punishes the mean-spirited in this fanciful French comedy.

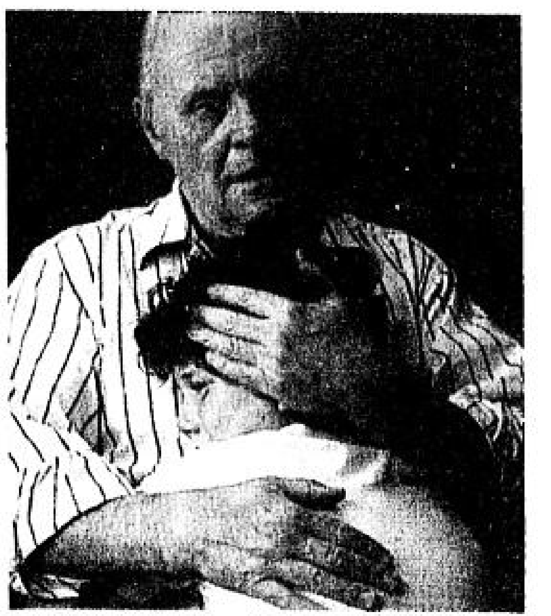
"Asoka." A warrior king in ancient India turns from the path of bloodshed to Buddhist enlightenment.

"Black Knight." Martin Lawrence does the "Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" thing as a modern man hurled back to 16th century England.

"Brotherhood of The Wolf." Where wolf? In 18th century France. King Louis XV dispatches a scientist to investigate a marauding creature.

"The Cat's Meow." Peter Bogdanovich examines a notorious unsolved killing among the rich and famous on William Randolph Hearst's yacht in 1924.

"Harry Potter and The Sorceror's Stone." Based on an obscure British fantasy novel . . . Yeah, right.



ANTHONY Hopkins is cast as a lodger with magical powers who befriends a troubled boy in "Hearts in Atlantis."

"In the Bedroom." Sissy Spacek and Tom Wilkinson earned special acting honors at Sundance for this riveting tale of family tragedy and revenge.

"The Man Who Wasn't There." The Coen brothers' darkly comic thriller about a taciturn barber (Billy Bob Thornton) whose blackmail scheme leads to disaster.

"Monsters, Inc." Just why do monsters sneak out of closets at night to frighten children? The makers of "Toy Story" spin an animated answer.

"My First Mister." Christine Lahti's directing debut examines the friendship of a gloomy teen (Leelee Sobieski) and her uptight boss (Albert Brooks).

"The New Guy." A juvenile-hall stint transforms a teen geek into the epitome of cool when he transfers to a new high school.

"The One." Jet Li's latest is an alternate-reality tale about a man systemically eliminating his counterparts in parallel universes.

"Punks." A romantic comedy about four gay friends seeking love and companionship in L.A.

"Shallow Hal." The Farrelly brothers direct Gwyneth Paltrow and Jack Black in a comedy about a man hypnotized into believing an obese woman is the object of his dreams.

"Spy Game." Robert Redford is a master spy trying to bring down his former protege (Brad Pitt), who's become a rogue agent.

"Tape." Ethan Hawke, Robert Sean Leonard and Uma Thurman in a drama of mind games set entirely in a seedy motel room. Richard Linklater directs.

"Windtalkers." Nicolas Cage is torn between duty and friendship as bodyguard to a Navajo codetalker during World War II. John Woo directs.

December

"The Accidental Spy." "Spy Kids" for adults. Jackie Chan plays a salesman drawn into cloak-and-dagger life after discovering his parents were agents.

"Ali." Will Smith and director Michael Mann ("The Insider") lay bare the life of "The Greatest." The film focuses on Muhammad Ali's life from 1964 to 1974.

"Bad Company." A CIA agent (Anthony Hopkins) trains a street punk (Chris Rock) as a spy to replace his slain twin brother in this action comedy.

"A Beautiful Mind." Russell Crowe plays Nobel Prize-winning economist John Forbes Nash Jr., afflicted by schizophrenia. Ron Howard directs.

"The Business of Strangers." Stockard Channing and Julia Stiles mess with each other's minds during an out-of-control business trip.

"Gangs of New York." Martin Scorsese directs Leonardo DiCaprio, Cameron Diaz and Daniel Day-Lewis in a drama of vengeance among gangs in 1860s Manhattan.

"Gosford Park." Robert Altman meets Agatha Christie in the director's satiric murder mystery at a British manor. The huge cast includes Helen Mirren, Emily Watson and Clive Owen.

"How High." Rappers Method Man and Redman get into Harvard courtesy of their magic weed, then must survive on campus when their dope runs out.

"I Am Sam." Sean Penn plays a mentally handicapped man and Michelle Pfeiffer is his attorney in a legal fight to retain custody of his 7-year-old daughter.

"Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius." An animated tale of a whiz kid who rescues his hometown from alien invaders. Features the voices of Martin Short and Patrick Stewart.

"Joe Somebody." Tim Allen is a corporate loser who resolves to put his life on track after an encounter with the office bully.

"Lantana." A detective (Anthony LaPaglia) struggles with personal turmoil as he tries to find a vanished woman. Geoffrey Rush co-stars.

"Lord of The Rings: The Fellowship of The Ring." Based on another obscure British fantasy novel . . . Part one of J.R.R. Tolkien's epic.

"The Majestic." Jim Carrey is a blacklisted, amnesiac screenwriter in the 1950s who finds a new life in a small town. Frank Darabont directs.

"Monster's Ball." Billy Bob Thornton is a death-row prison guard involved with a condemned man's wife (Halle Berry). Heath Ledger and Sean Combs co-star.

"Not Another Teen Movie." An Eliza Doolittle tale about a high school jock who tries to turn an uncool classmate into a prom queen.

"Ocean's Eleven." Steven Soderbergh retools the 1960 Rat Pack caper about a Vegas casino heist. With George Clooney, Julia Roberts, Brad Pitt and Matt Damon.

"Pauline & Paulette." A woman bequeaths her worldly wealth to her sisters on condition that one of them tend their elderly slow-witted sibling.

"Pinero." Benjamin Bratt stars as Puerto Rican writer-actor Miguel Pinero, who lived hard, died young and blended serious writing with pop culture.

"The Royal Tenenbaums." A family of failed geniuses is drawn together for a reunion. Gene Hackman, Anjelica Huston, Gwyneth Paltrow and Danny Glover co-star.

"The Shipping News." Kevin Spacey, Julianne Moore, Cate Blanchett and Judi Dench in the adaptation of the best-seller about a man uncovering secrets from his family's past.

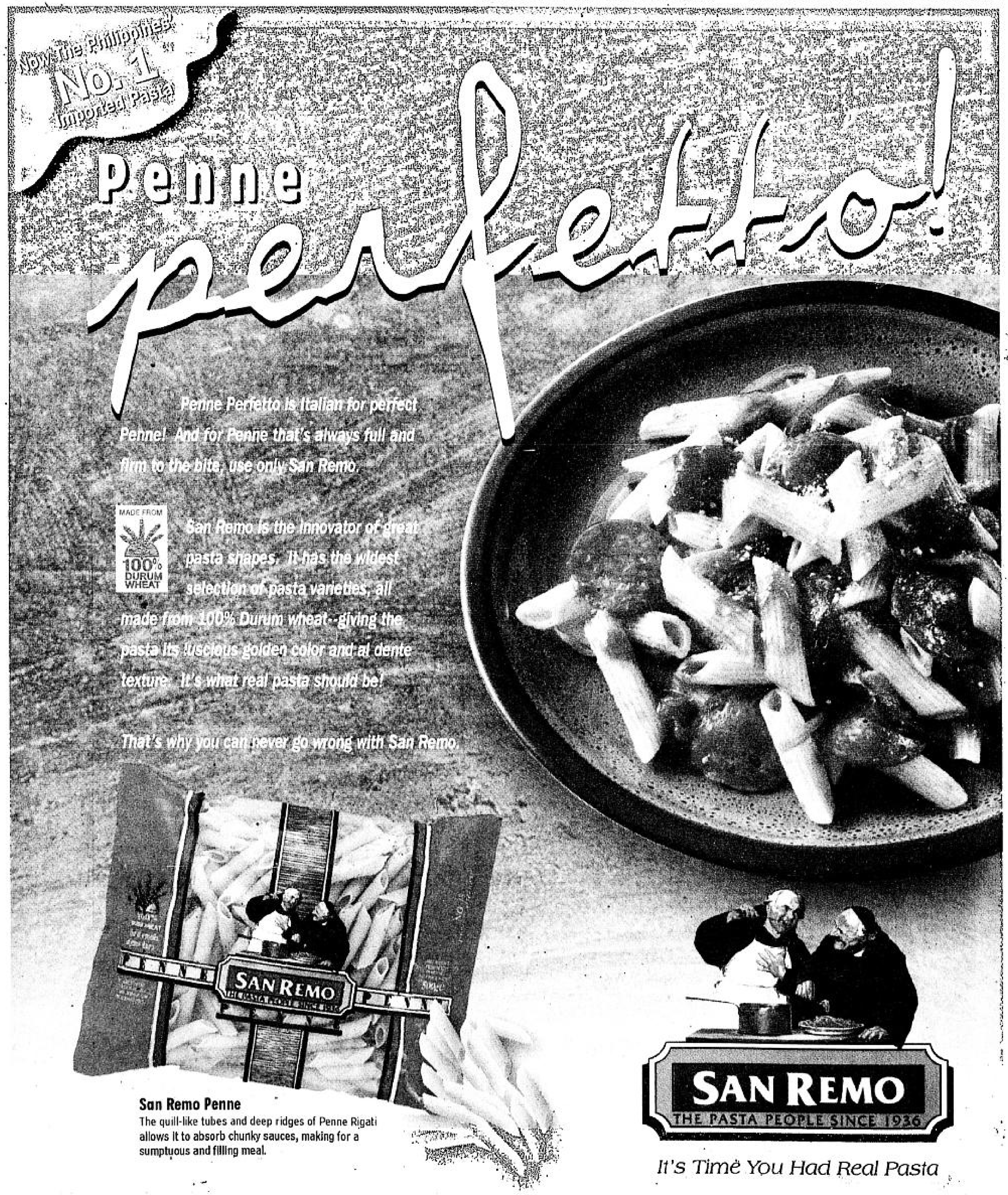
"The Time Machine." An update of H.G. Wells' classic about a scientist (Guy Pearce) whose invention tosses him 800,000 years into the future. Directed by Simon Wells, the author's great-grandson.

"Vanilla Sky." Tom Cruise reunites with "Jerry Maguire" creator Cameron Crowe for this adaptation of the convoluted Spanish film "Open Your Eyes."

Unscheduled fall releases

"Domestic Disturbance." John Travolta is a divorced dad who's the only one who believes his son's tale of witnessing a murder by his stepfather.

"Lucky Break." Inmates use a prison musical production as staging ground for an escape in this comedy from "Full Monty" director Peter Cattaneo. *AP*



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Featured Recipe: PENNE WITH ITALIAN SAUSAGE AND PEPPERS

INGREDIENTS
500g San Remo Penne-Rigati
450g Italian sausage
1 green pepper, cut into strips
1/4 cup onion, sliced
1 clove garlic, minced
1 tsp. dried oregano
1 tsp. dried basil
1 tsp. thyme
1 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. black pepper, ground
400g can San Remo Peeled Tomatoes

PROCEDURE:
1. In a large frying pan, saute sausage until browned. Drain all but 1 tbsp. fat.
2. Add green pepper, onion, garlic, oregano, basil, thyme, salt and pepper. Saute for about 10 minutes, stirring frequently.
3. Stir in peeled tomatoes (with liquid), breaking up with a fork.
4. Simmer to reduce liquid for 5 minutes.
5. Top with grated parmesan cheese to taste.

For more exciting and appetizing recipes log on to www.san-remo.com.au or e-mail us at sysumktg@info.com.ph

Festive and meaningful book launching

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Aug. 29, we joined many friends of National Artist and performing arts reviewer Leonor Orosa Goquingco, who converged on the CCP to celebrate the publication of her latest book, "Curtain Call, Selected Reviews, 1957-2000, published by the UP Press.

The occasion was made even more festive and meaningful by the performances of a number of artists. Soprano Rachelle Gerodias got things off to a rousing start with her full-bodied vocal performance.

Douglas Nierras' Powerdance followed up with an intense "Gloria" performed by Danny Marshall, Van Manalo, Monette Victoria, Ianne Damian, Ace Lebumfacil, Marvin Naadat and Eleanor Mabaquiao.

Monique Wilson read a short sonnet. Toni Lopez-Gonzalez did a wily "Black Widow/ Spider Woman" modern dance number. For effective contrast, this was followed by the "Don Quixote Pas de Deux" by Ballet Manila's Pamela Asprer and Jeffrey Espejo.

The most controversial number was Tami Monsod's excerpt from "The Vagina Monologues." We remember that, when the monologues were performed at Music Museum some months ago, this piece was greeted by gales of liberated and liberating laughter.

At the CCP Main Theater lobby last Aug. 29, however, it apparently disconcerted some of the people in the audience generally made up of senior citizens, and elicited only a few tentative giggles.

The finale numbers were Julie Borromeo's Philippine Ballet Theater's "Beautiful Girls" danced by Guada de Leon, Maricar Medina, Faye Abigail Tan, Lea Baduria, Maritess Cabael and Tara Ferrer, and "Bayan Ko" as sung by Ms Gerodias.

Sharon on "Maala-ala Mo Kaya"

To make the 10th anniversary of Channel 2's "Maala-ala Mo Kaya" truly special, ABS-CBN's drama showcase will topbill Sharon Cuneta in two episodes, with the first being telecast this Thursday, Sept. 13 at 9:30 p.m.

Chito Roño is directing Sharon for the first time, and it's a fair bet that, after this, Sharon will want Chito to direct her in a full-length film feature.

After all, Roño has acquired a reputation for bringing out the best in his stars, specially his actresses, which has been newly bolstered by the compelling performance that he has gotten out of Rosanna Roces in her new film, "La Vida Rosa" (to be shown later this month).

In this Thursday's "Maala-ala Mo Kaya" episode, Sharon plays Grace, a businesswoman who suddenly finds herself the guardian of her niece Crystal (Serena Dalrymple) after Grace's sister dies of complications from AIDS.

Crystal has also been diagnosed to be stricken with pediatric AIDS, so both the child and Grace have really trying times ahead of them. Also starring in the episode is Dante Rivero as Grace's friend, Jeff.

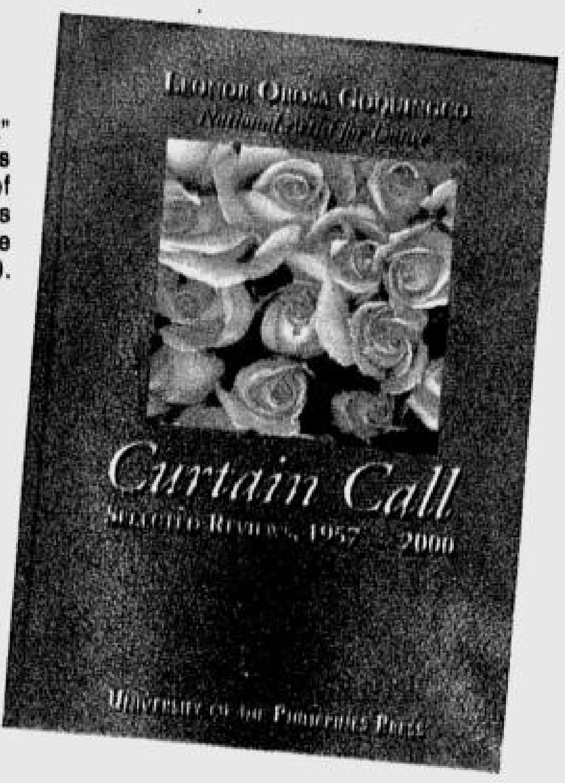
Time travels with a twist

This Sunday, Sept. 9 at 8 p.m., "Sliders," a sci-fi adventure miniseries, unfolds on the Hallmark channel. One-hour episodes telecast daily at 8 p.m. from Monday to Friday follow tomorrow's pilot episode.

The miniseries chronicles the travels of four dynamic adventures who "slide" through a portal to travel through parallel dimensions of time.

FESTIVE/P. C7

SHARON Cuneta makes her first appearance on "Maala-ala Mo Kaya" this Thursday, Sept. 13 at 9:30 p.m.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Curtain Call
Selected Reviews, 1957 – 2000
University of the Philippines Press

"CURTAIN CALL." Leonor Goquingco's compilation of reviews was launched at the CCP last Aug. 29.

"SLIDERS." Newest addition to Hallmark Channel's roster of miniseries, telecast Monday to Friday at 8 p.m.

An open . . . (From page C6)

I'm sure people have already warned you about show business being the cradle of *plastikan* and *gamitan*. But it's possible to live in a dog-eat-dog world without eating dogs, or being eaten by them. You can do that by a resolute decision not to be a dog!

Goals

Moreover, you should set your goals higher than local show business. Your stage is not just here, you have the entire world waiting to be conquered by you. And it is up for conquest only by people who are able to rise above the parochial pettiness of Philippine show biz.

KC, you are a cut above the rest. But this should not be a source of bravado but humility for you because it is actually a heavy yoke you must carry valiantly to deserve the success you claim.

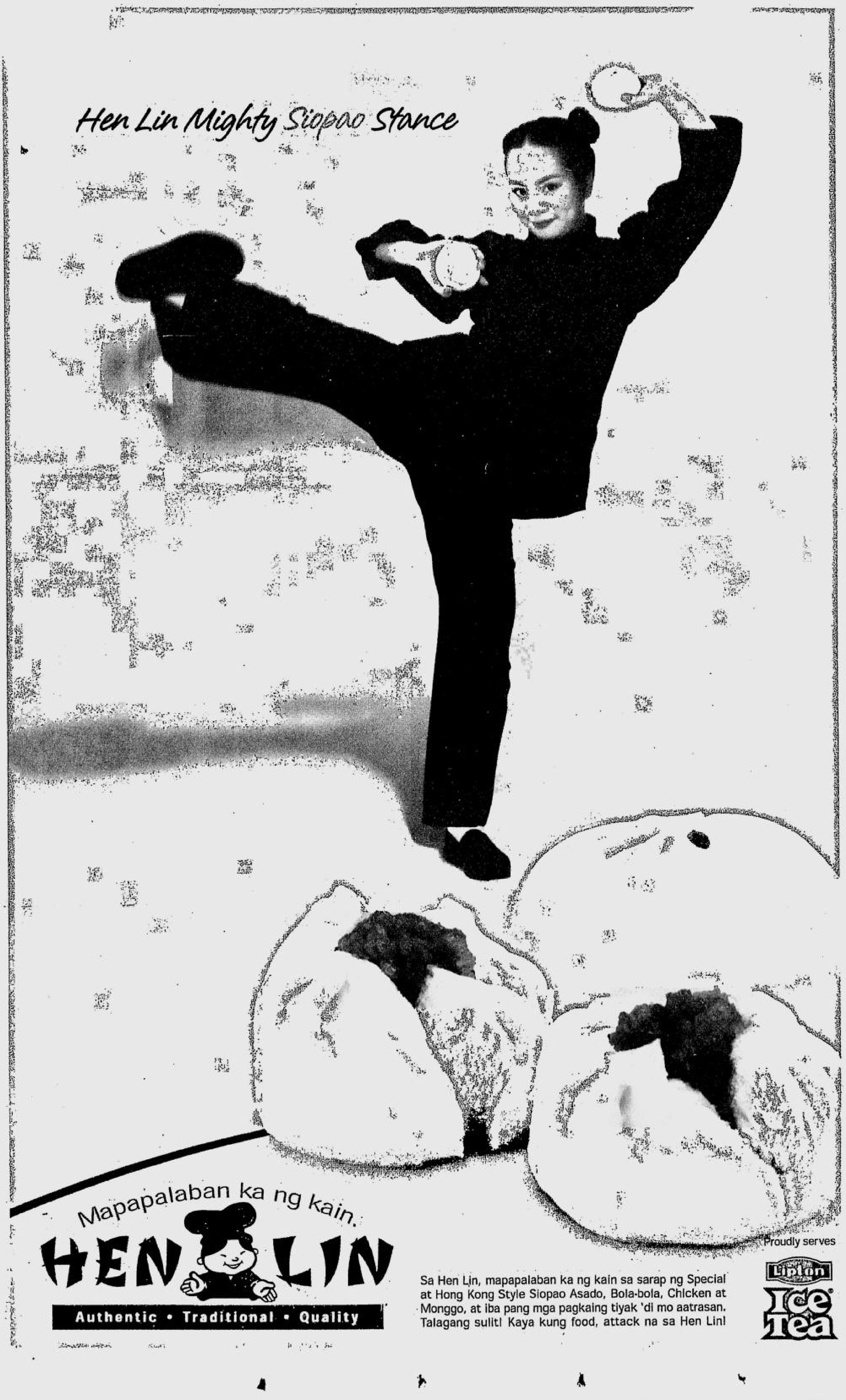
And, as you go on your way, travel light. Don't bring with you all the baggage you don't need, anyway, It will only slow you down. Worse, you may lose your way and even yourself.

Lastly, my dear KC, learn to care for the poor. I'm confident your mom has already inculcated this concern in you because she herself has demonstrated tremendous love for those who have less in this life, but I'd like to underline the importance of sharing God's bounty.

Competence

Know that you have so much going for you not because God loves you more, but because He trusts that you have not only the competence to be a good steward of those blessings but also the innate generosity to share them with the poor.

In closing, I thank you for you. Live your life with the knowledge that you are a blessing not only to your family, but also to the many people whose lives are just waiting to be touched by you.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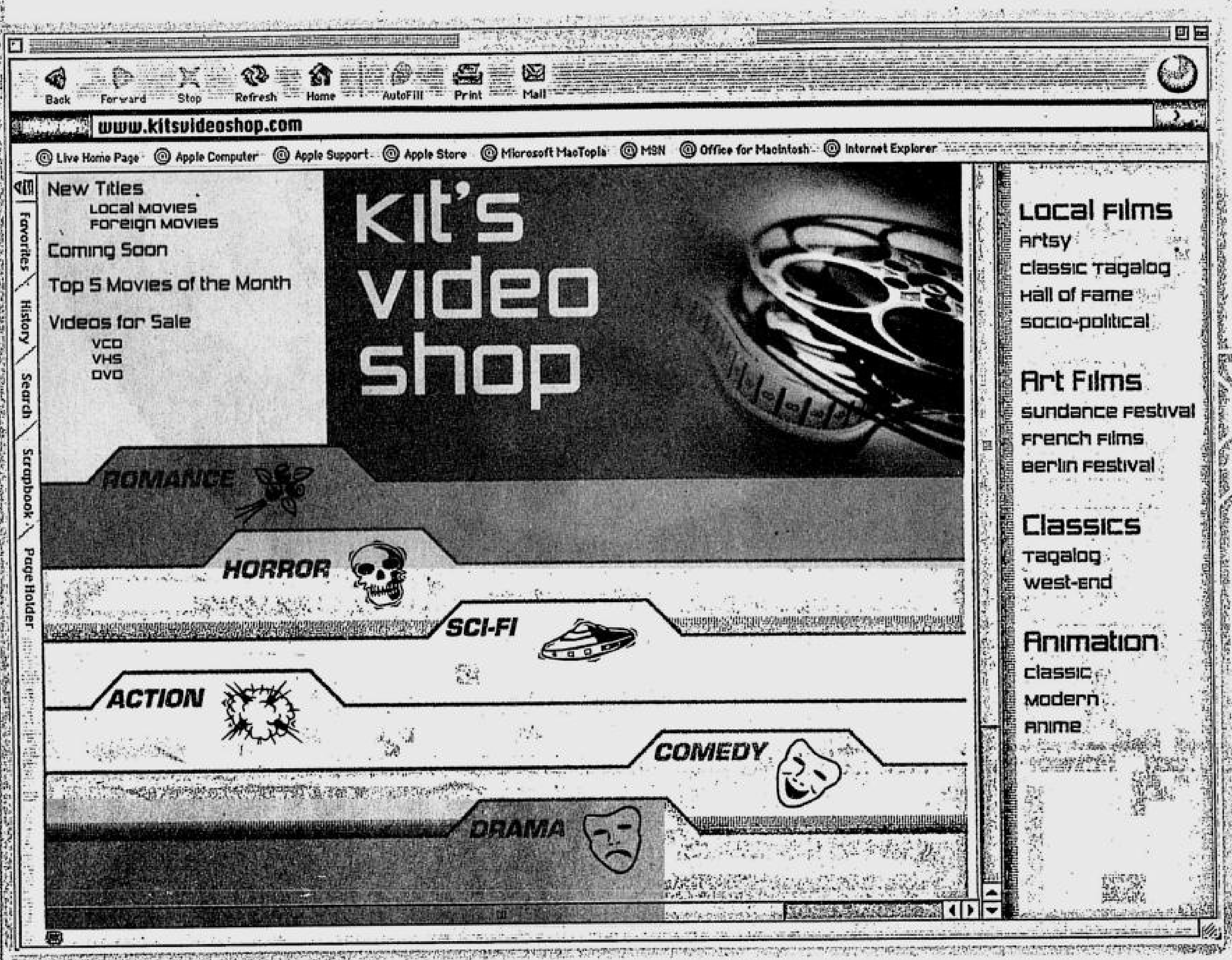
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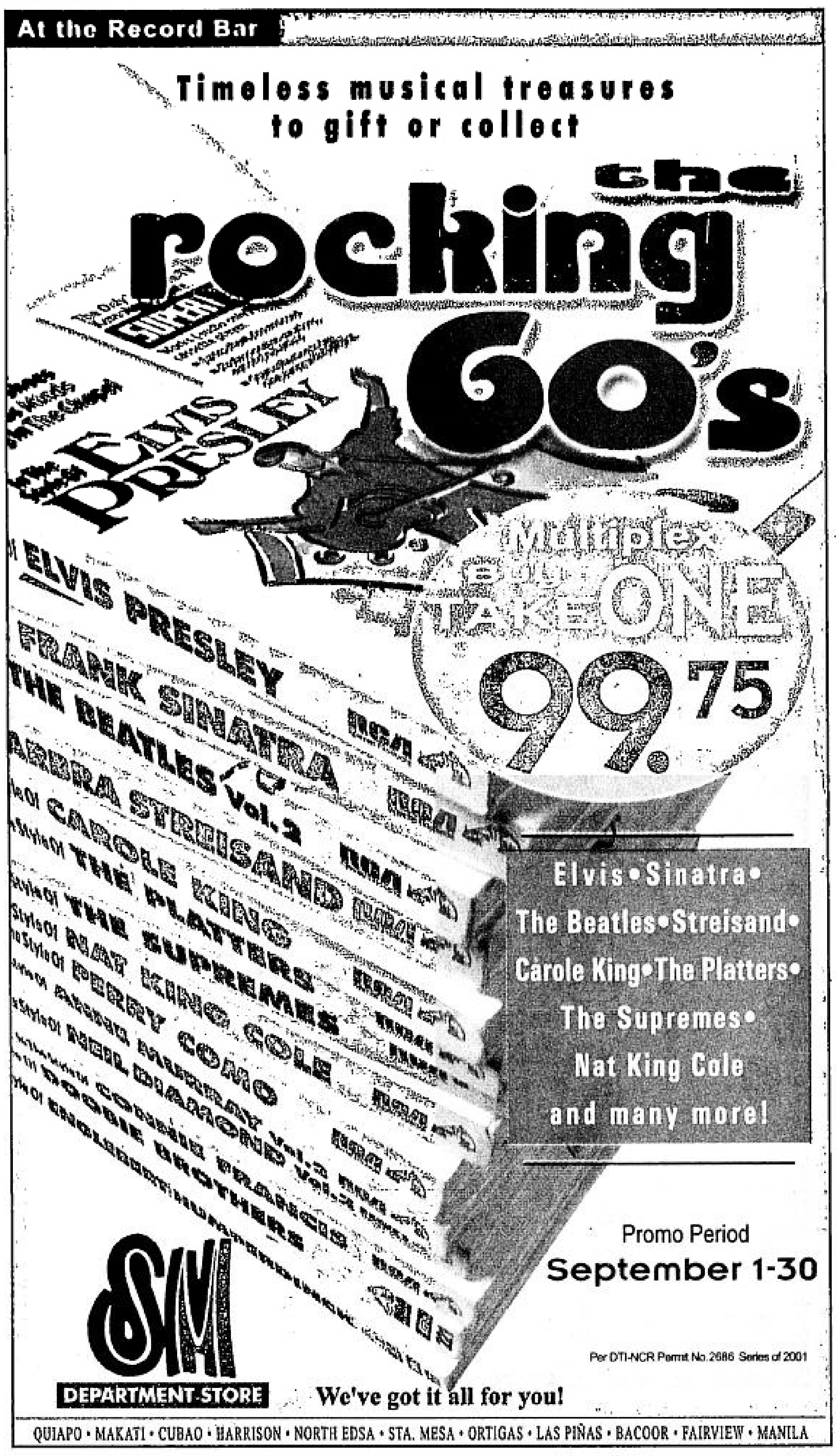

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An open letter to KC

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

MY dear KC,

How fast time flies--you've grown a lot! I was pleasantly surprised when I first saw your pictorials extravagantly splashed all over the pages of broadsheets and glossies.

No mistake about it, all the hoopla you have so effortlessly generated isn't just because you are your mother's daughter, which makes you the crown jewel of the combined fantasies of this generation.

It is also because you are you. Despite the "royalty" of your position, you have character and personality that asserts itself and prides itself in being what you are.

Chiseled features

Immediately, I knew a star was born. I kept on staring at your friendly, chiseled features—the regal cheekbones, the impressive jawline, the shy nose, the delicate lips, the intelligent eyes, the self-assured brows, the elegant neck.

The general effect suggests a merry mix of interesting contradictions. Like, there's quiet, confident strength cloaked in your beguiling vulnerability, a hint of adventure in your seeming shyness.

I sense a warrior knight ready to take on the world beneath the dainty damsel persona you involuntarily project. The effect you have on people is that they want to shield and protect you, but they end up wondering from what, because you dare the world to hurt you but the world just can't help but love you more and more!

KC, I've known your mom for the longest time. I only have the deepest respect and concern for her. I've also seen you grow into the fine lady you are now. It is in this context that I write to you to lovingly give some unsolicited advice:

Mother knows best

First, please never doubt the truth in the statement that mother knows best. You are in that stage when you will tend to question some of the decisions that your mom will make for you. And there will be times when your mom, despite her facility with words, won't be able to fully explain to you the wisdom of every choice she makes in your behalf.

Moms are *always* wiser. Their wisdom comes not just from their wealth of experience but also from the fact that, when God created mothers, He equipped them with an instinct that enables them to smell either blessing or danger a thousand miles away. Learn to trust in that instinct, God gave that to your mom not for her but for you.

You will find yourself arguing with your mom, trying to make her see things your way. As you do this, you may even throw a little tantrum here and there. If I know your mom, as I think I do, she allows this. And it's good that she does.

But, as you try to convince her to invest even more trust in you than she already has, know that it's not you she doesn't trust, but the world. Everyday, there are more and more reasons for people to be wary of this place we live in.

Second, please open yourself up to even the remotest possibility of reconciliation with your father. I don't mean for you to set yourself up for even more frustration and despair than you've already have with him, but I hope for you a life of closure to hidden pains.

Solid relationship

It delights me to see that you and your adoptive dad have built such an affectionate, happy and solid relationship. But I pray that God creates situations with which you and your "biological dad," as you so matter-of-factly refer to him, may reknot the severed threads of your kinship.

Gabby may be the worst father in the world, but nothing can ever detract from the fact that a part of you came from him, and you shall never rest until that part of you has reconnected with him.

In this matter with your father, you can never undo the agonies of the past but you can claim victory over them by embracing a future of genuine forgiving and forgetting.

And even if the future does bring even more hurts, hope springs eternal for those who have chosen to liberate themselves from yesterday's pains.

When your father comes home from wherever it was he went to lick his pains, it will most certainly not only open up old wounds but even slice up new ones. But then, there won't be any pain anymore, nothing can still hurt you, if you have already truly healed.

CONCEPCION. A merry mix of interesting contradictions.

And healing is a decision, a personal choice. It is dependent on nobody else but yourself. Just like forgiveness, which does not depend on the cause of your pain asking for it—but is freely given as a result of a decision to forgive.

Plan

Third, please don't hurry. Don't hurry to grow up, to fall in love, to succeed in life. You are destined for greatness but you can spoil the plan God has created for you if you mess it up with your impatience and over-zealousness.

Take your time! Better yet, allow time to take its course. Learn to savor every moment lest you miss out on the joys that can be found in simple things.

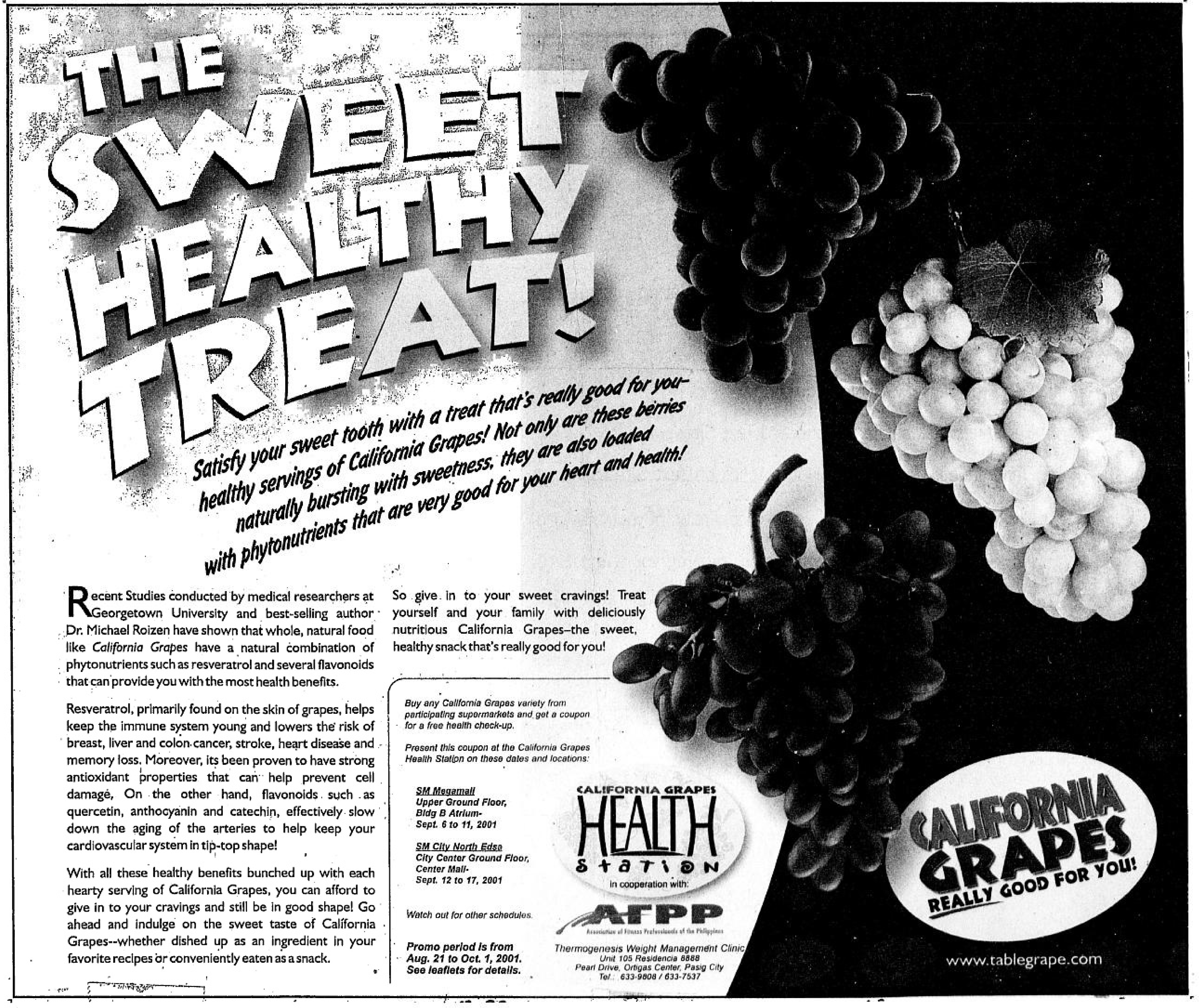
Don't be afraid to fall. Only the failures find failure a dreary place. For successful people, failure is a stepping stone and not a stumbling block.

If life were a computer game, falling affords you the chance not only to collect precious tokens that will empower you for bigger battles ahead but also to discover secret codes that can hasten your journey to your destiny.

But don't fall needlessly. You are fortunate to have a mom who has been through most of the pitfalls that you may also encounter. Eat voraciously from her table of delicious experiences.

Fourth, please don't allow the system to gobble you up. You are not a product, you are not a commodity. You are a person made of flesh and blood. Never ever lose sight of your humanity. Make it the core of your being.

AN OPEN/ P. C3



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Leandro Muñoz would like to become a more versatile performer

BY JOCELYN VALLE

LEANDRO Muñoz's father is the brother of veteran actress Tita Muñoz. But the young actor can't single out any of his aunt's movies. "*Wala kasi talaga akong napanood nang buo*," he sheepishly admits, adding that by the time he was growing up, Tita wasn't very active in show business anymore.

Praise

Now that Leandro is in the biz himself, Tita, he reports, is very happy about it. "I get nothing but praise from her," he beams.

Leandro's entry into the entertainment industry was unplanned, though. When he did the TV ad for Close-Up a few years ago, he was told that movie and TV offers would soon come his way. He was also advised not to give his nod to any of them yet, and to make more ads instead.

True enough, Leandro was soon invited to join the ABS-CBN family, and turned his back on TV commercials. He chose to follow in the footsteps of former Close-Up models Gabby Concepcion, Dawn Zulueta and Tonton Gutierrez.

Thus, in 1999, Leandro was officially launched as a member of Channel 2's Star Circle, Batch 8. Since then, he's essayed a major character in the concluded *telenovela* "Saan Ka Man Naroroon", has a recurring role in the teen series "Tabing-ilog," and is currently playing an NBI agent on the courtroom drama "Your Honor."

Three movies

He has also done three movies: "Isusumbong Kita Sa Tatay Ko" (as leading man to Judy Ann Santos), "Anak" (as love interest to Claudine Barretto) and "Kahit Isang Saglit" (with Judy Ann and Piolo Pascual).

Very soon, we'll be seeing Leandro opposite Jolina Magdangal in a love story set on the MRT.

Not bad for an upstart who's been in the biz for only two years. Leandro shares, though, that there was a time when he had no work. "One month *na wala akong trabaho*," he recalls. "At first, *tuloy-tuloy ang* projects. *Akala ko ganoon na talaga*."

> 'I've done workshops but they're more about finding one's style in acting. I rely more on the situation, the environment and the music'

"Change is the only constant thing in this world," he sighs, letting us know what he's learned so far in his young career.

But there are a lot of discoveries, too. "*Dati, hirap akong umarte*," says Leandro, who neither acted in school plays nor joined any theater group because he was more into sports like rowing and bowling. "*Magaling pala akong mag*-memorize. *Akala ko rin dati, masarap maging sikat*."

Leandro has been getting reasonable recognition from the public and he's trying to deal with it. Thankfully, he smiles, the fans have not been rowdy. "*Minsan, gusto lang nilang makawayan*," he explains.

With his earnings from show biz, Leandro has been able to invest in a bar-disco called Wherehouse. He's a BS Management graduate of San Beda College, after all. And, he adds, he really wants to be financially stable, though he's still in his 20s.

Emotional stability

Leandro wants emotional stability, too. "*Dapat, hindi ka* affected *sa* role *mo*," he expounds. "*Minsan kasi, bigla na lang akong made*-depress. *Nagda*-drive *ako, tapos biglang tutulo ang luha ko*."

"*Madali lang palang umiyak*," he continues, grinning now. "I've done workshops but they're more about finding one's own style in acting. I rely more on the situation, the environment and the music."

He also takes note of how admired actors like Jericho Rosales, Roderick Paulate and Romnick Sarmenta tackle a role and motivate themselves. Leandro likewise loves to watch the films of Robert de Niro, Al Pacino and Susan Sarandon.

"*May sariling silang* style," he notes of the Hollywood actors, especially the revered de Niro and Pacino. He is awed by De Niro's intensity in "Taxi Driver" and at the same time finds him funny in "Analyze This." He is likewise moved by character-driven films like "Braveheart" and "Jerry Maguire."

"I would also like to explore my versatility," he avers, adding that he's not giving himself a deadline to achieve his goals. "I'll just go with the flow."

MUÑOZ. The former commercial model is busy with television and movie projects.

Festive . . . (From page C3)

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What if traditional male and female roles are reversed?

Jerry O'Connell plays Quinn Mallory, a college student who discovers the time-travel portal in the laboratory he has built in his home's basement.

John Rhy-Davies is Prof. Maximilian Arturo, a pompous physics professor who joins his brilliant student on the scientific ride of their lives.

Other regular characters are computer whiz Wade Wells (Sabrina Lloyd) and Rembrandt "Crying Man" Brown (Cleavant Derricks), a member of a classic singing group who gets sucked into the first "slide" when he happens to pass by Quinn's house on the way to a performance.

'XYZ'

Women are learning how to handle abusive men, whether physically or legally. Channel 21's "XYZ" (today at 7 p.m.) features computer counterstrike gamesters and the members of a women's boxing team. Ida Vargas directs.

Pagdating na pagdating, sila'y nagpasalubong shopping!

Si Boy Riles
Dating Tutuban Boy Riles na naging Saudi Boy Riles matapos magtrabaho ro'n. 'Wag kang aasta-asta at baka hindi ka niya matantsa. Nagbalik para makipag-reunion sa mga katropa niya.

Si Don Facundo
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Si Angelina Janjalani
Full-pledged member ng notorious Abu Baddaf Gang. Nag-Japan for five years. At nang may-I-return hayun at pinag-shopping agad ang kanyang Papa!

Si Mayor Noli Tumbok
Tumakbo last elections pero siyempre, natalo. Kaya para mag-celebrate, nag-around the world. Ngayong nagbalik na siya... tuloy ang pakikibaka pero daan muna siya siempre sa Duty Free Philippines.

Si Uncle Boyong
Galing Hong Kong. Likas na mabait! Uncle ng Bayan! Sa lahat ng pagkakataon, inuuna ang pamilya. Kaya naman everybody loves this uncle named Boyong.

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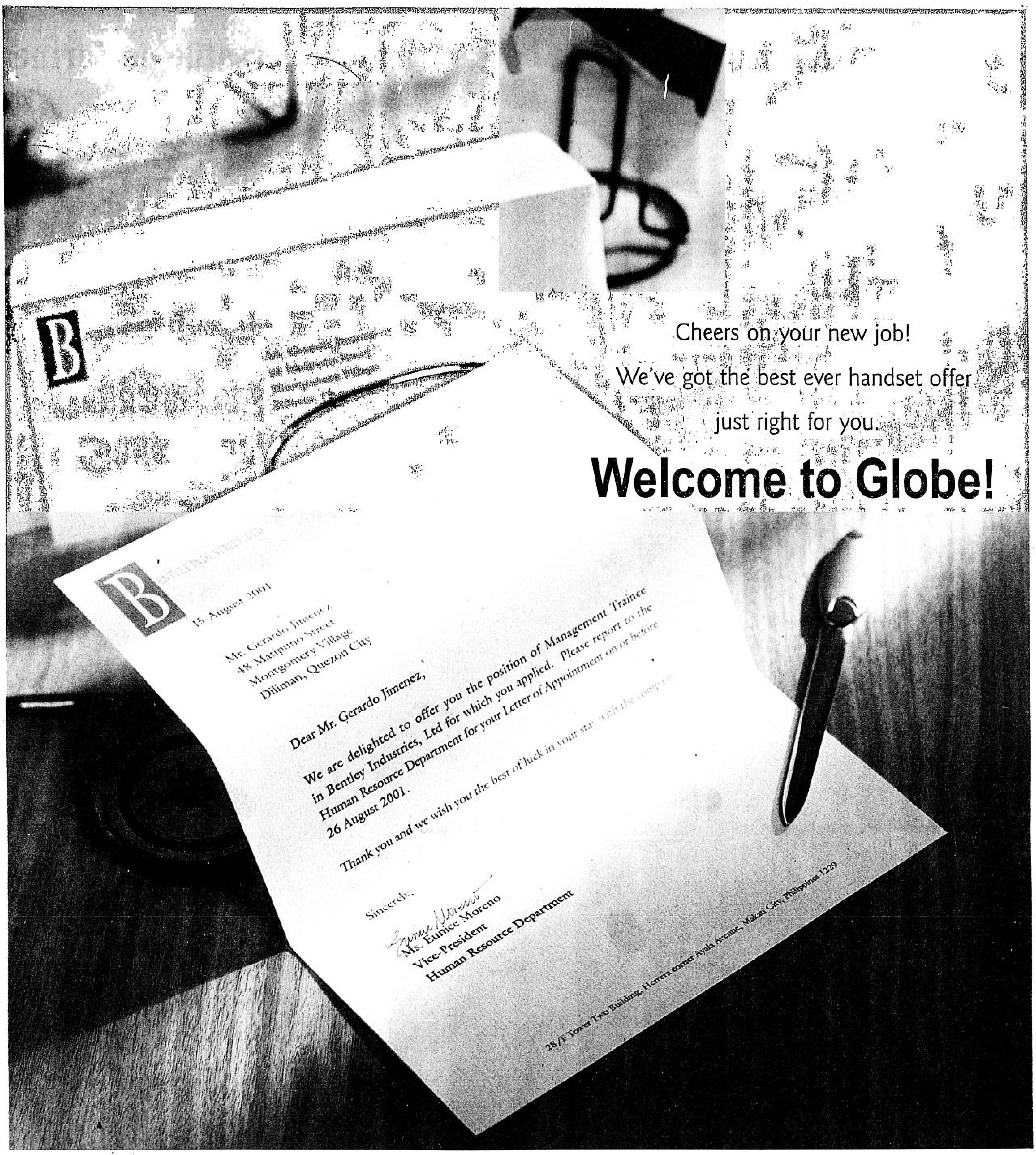

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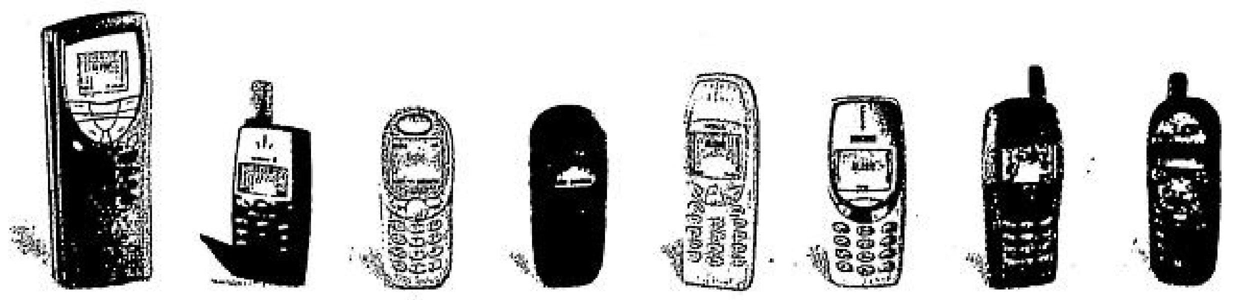

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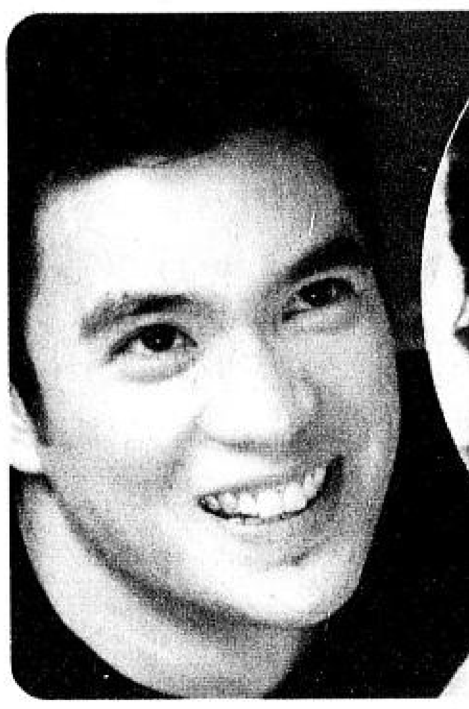
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If true art hides itself, then in her new film, 'La Vida Rosa,' Rosanna has finally become a true artist

Rosanna Roces comes full circle

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER watching Rosanna Roces' compelling performance in her new starrer, "La Vida Rosa," we found ourselves recalling the first time, almost 10 year ago, that we first became aware of her promise as a film performer.

She was still named Ana Maceda then, and she was cast as one of many "comfort women" in a film set in World War Two. Her role wasn't very noteworthy, and yet she managed to stand out over the many other "daring and baring" starlets in that movie.

Fresh approach

We liked her spunk, her fresh approach to "sexy" acting, and sensed that she would go places. She did, but it was mostly in sex flicks that exploited her lack of shyness about taking her clothes off for all the world to see.

Later, after she had become a star and TV host, she disappointed us by being too fast and loose with her lip, shocking televiewers with her naughty and even vulgar remarks. This made her the talk of the town, of course, but we missed the focused and natural performer we had seen so many years ago.

Well, we've just seen Rosanna's latest movie, "La Vida Rosa," and we are happy to say that, in that film, we've found the Rosanna we've missed seeing all this time.

Excess baggage

In "La Vida Rosa," director Chito Roño has succeeded in paring away the distracting layers of acting tics and mannerisms, and the other excess baggage that Rosanna has weighed herself down with through the years.

The Rosanna who plays the film's title role is pretty much without artifice. Her hair color has been darkened to its original hue, and she plays her acting cards close to her chest.

She has some sexy scenes, but they aren't done mainly to titillate. They're there to develop her screen character's relationship with her hoodlum-lover (Diether Ocampo), and after they've made their point, they're ended.

Pertinence

This focus and pertinence is wonderful to behold because it shows that director Roño is so confident of his female star's talent that he doesn't have to bolster it with the usual, cynical sexual exploitation.

Basking in the glow of this directorial show of respect, Rosanna turns in her best performance—edgy but vulnerable, sexy but tender, often loving but sometimes cruel—in other words, a three-dimensional portrait of a desperate human being viewers want to protect from the violent death that's sure to catch up with her in the end.

To make Rosanna's character even more prismatic, Armando Lao's screenplay has her interacting not just with her lover, but also with her blind mother (Liza Lorena) and her young son (Jiro Manio).

Greater range and depth

Rosanna uses these relationships with the other people close to her character's heart to provide greater range and depth to her already striking performance.

One reason why she turns to a life of crime is to save up enough money to pay for her mother's eye operation. And she's sometimes shown to be cruel to her son because she is terribly afraid that, if she doesn't discipline him, he will turn out to be exactly like her.

To do justice to her character's different facets, Rosanna keeps shifting her thespic stance, but she does it so naturally that the effort doesn't show.

If true art hides itself, then in "La Vida Rosa," Rosanna Roces has finally become a true artist.

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UAAP NEWS

Pops and Janice, lost and found

By Veron Dionisio

WHAT is it about a marriage that makes a woman forget herself? Why does it seem to take a marital breakup to make a woman rethink and reconsider her options in life? How can a woman be a mother and a wife and also have a successful career?

Look at Pops Fernandez and Janice de Belen. They both rediscovered more things about themselves as individuals after their separation from their husbands.

FERNANDEZ AND DE BELEN. Starting to realize their full potential.

Top priorities

While their families, particularly their kids, remain their priorities, these two women firmly believe that their careers serve as "the windows that God opened when He closed the doors."

Pops is starting to realize her full potential not just as a performer but also as a woman. She has even become more daring and less inhibited as an artist, bent on making a go of the acting career that she put aside for the sake of her marriage. In her words, she has "lost and found herself."

She has found refuge in her career. It gives her a sense of security not just for herself but for her kids. She once said in an interview, "Yes, while I believe that Martin will never neglect his responsibilities, it's inevitable that he'll find his own family someday. And if that happens, I want to be ready."

She married early. At the age of 19, Pops took on the responsibilities of the woman of the house. She admits she missed growing up to womanhood and the normalcy that goes with this stage. "*Hindi ako nagdalaga*," she sighs.

Impropriety

In most separations, the woman is the target of malicious talk. While separated men can move on and date other women and not be crucified by society, women are scrutinized. Every single perception of impropriety is held against them, a minus point in the rating scale of morality, a disgrace to proper womanhood.

Pops has been a victim of society's myopic double standards. While Martin can be with the woman who caused the breakup of their marriage, Pops is perceived to be "a woman on the loose, a cradle snatcher," who doesn't appreciate how her children would be affected by these controversies.

The issues are slowly dying down, but despite the annulment of their marriage, people still tend to look at Pops in a bad light. She's a single mom and she has every right to date, right?

Nonetheless, the question is, would she be the woman she is now, more sure about herself, more confident about what she can do, with a deeper sense of self-worth and self-esteem, had she remained married?

Everybody knows that Janice was at her peak as an actress when she gave it all up when she married John Estrada a decade ago and gave him five kids. Yes, she was never out of show biz. She appeared in soap operas and guested in various drama anthologies and series. We saw her in TV ads once or twice.

However, she never created a stir. She's been one among the many faces on television for the past 10 years. Yes, we did watch her. We saw how she neglecting herself, putting on more weight than she should.

Devoted wife

Slowly, it appeared she was not interested in her show biz career anymore. She seemed contented to raise her kids and being a devoted wife to John.

And then the separation came. Amidst denials and pronouncements, we saw how Janice coped. All of a sudden, she pinch-hit for Lyn Ching on "S-Files". The feedback was so great that, when Ching decided to concentrate on public affairs, GMA management took Janice in as a permanent co-host. In her younger sister Gelli's words, "Janice has found a new career."

Many critics have been impressed with how Janice has been handling her hosting chores. They claim she has given a show a new thrust, a new look, a fresher treatment. We now have a quieter, less talkative show biz talk show host who knows how to listen to her guests, who does not cut her guests off just to appear knowledgeable, and who's attentive enough to catch clues in voice tone and facial expression.

If we believe her photos in ads on newspapers, she seems to be on a weight management program now. Janice looks lighter and it appears that she's on her way to achieving a slimmer and fitter form. After all, she has to look good on the TV screen.

POPS/ D7

Ronnie Ricketts stars in 'Mano Mano 2'

By Edmund L. Sicam

IN Ronnie Ricketts' latest action film, "Mano-Mano 2," there are no explosions or major shootouts, and no guts are spilled. But Ronnie promises there will be enough exciting scenes to satisfy the action movie buff. The actor-director felt it was time to get away from guns and explosives and instead concentrate on character development and a credible storyline.

MARIZ had no idea her husband Ronnie wanted her for his film's female lead.

Martial arts

Not that there won't be confrontations and demonstrations of strength in the movie. There will be a lot of scenes involving martial arts, something Ronnie is at home with. He and his brother have a martial arts school.

The characters will also be involved in arm wrestling. In other words, this is your traditional action movie involving, not armalites and TNT, but fists of fury, *a la* Bruce Lee.

Even the bad guys here are no longer bad guys at the end of the film but real persons who learn their lesson and change for the better. Rommel Montano gets a break as the mean streetfighting champion who crosses paths with Ronnie..

How about the usual bold scenes, staples in action movies? Well, Klaudia Koronel is in the movie but sorry, guys, if you're expecting the kind of exposure that made "Live Show" quite controversial, you're in for a big disappointment. Although Klaudia still has sexy scenes, they're not the kind that will alarm the MTRCB.

In fact, Klaudia told us during the presscon at Ronnie's restaurant, The Barn, one scene required her and Ronnie to have a scorching love scene in a boxing ring. Since she had told Ronnie that she would prefer not to have any more over-the-top love scenes, she was worried that the scene would go beyond her new limits.

Shortened scene

It was Ronnie, however, who finally shortened the scene. Ronnie admitted that when it came to love scenes, he looked to Klaudia for advice on how to do them. The sexy star said Ronnie lost his nerve when it was time to do the love scene in the boxing ring.

When Klaudia entered the restaurant, she was dressed in a school uniform so we thought she came from shooting. We found out later on that she had come from school, the Iglesia Ni Kristo-run New Era College on Commonwealth ave. She wants to finish a degree in computers.

Klaudia really wants a degree because she realizes how unstable her job is. At the moment, however, she's very busy with television shows on GMA ,as well as movies.

The other female role in the movie is played by Ronnie's better half, Mariz, who's making a comeback after a five-year absence. Mariz spent most that time taking care of her two daughters, Marella and Marie, and managing the restaurant, a joint venture with some close friends.

Female lead

When Ronnie was working on the script, Mariz had no idea her husband wanted her for the female lead. When he finally told her, she was surprised but happy that she would face the cameras again. On the set, she enjoyed doing scenes with her fellow actors and didn't realize just how much she missed doing movies.

The actress is also a singer so someone asked if she'll be doing an album. Mariz said she was taking things one at a time but expressed interest in a recording project.

We asked Ronnie whether it was possible to do an action movie with female leads just like in "Charlie's Angels." His eyes lit up and said he was considering such a project. We asked who among our stars would do well as an action star. He thought long and hard and mentioned the name of Dyan Castillejos. "She would be perfect for that movie, but it will require a lot of practice."

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10 YEARS AGO

Music world's fascination with revivals recalled

By Noelani Torre

OBSERVERS of the local music scene were taking notice of a fast-developing trend during the first week of September 10 years ago. With voices half-raised in alarm and puzzlement, they wondered about the music world's widespread fascination with revivals.

As one writer put it, at the rate they were reviving tunes, they would soon run out of old songs to rehash.

Apparently, it all began with Regine Velasquez's interpretation of a 1979 Metropop entry, "Narito Ako," for her "Regine 1990" album. The song was a hit, prompting other singers to try the same route.

Interpretation

Before, the only other artists who had revivals in their repertoires were Manilyn Reynes with her interpretation of the Ella del Rosario late-'70s hit, "Mr. Disco;" Ogie Alcasid with Aaron Paul's "Pagkakataon;" and Janno Gibbs with Vic Sotto's "Ipagpatawad Mo." They proved so successful that their colleagues were soon jumping on their bandwagon.

Regine soon did a follow-up with Leah Navarro's "Buhay ng Buhay Ko." Racel Tuazon sang another Navarro ballad, "Ang Pag-ibig Kong Ito," as did Pops Fernandez with "Ligaw Tingin," causing vigilant observers to comment that Navarro's songs were very "*mabenta*."

As a matter of fact, the current favorite of the airwaves at the time was Rachel Alejandro's version of her father Haji's popular song "Nakapagtataka."

Compilation

OctoArts had also made a compilation of revivals done by their recording artists. This revival frenzy raised such questions as whether the industry had run out of material that was worth recording.

Boyet Palisoc, OctoArts International's artist development manager (Filipino music department), denied this. "No, it's definitely not due to a lack of good compositions," he said.

"The ratio of new songs to old ones is much bigger. Remember, there is just one revival song in an LP together with six to seven new works. Revivals give an opportunity for people, especially the young ones, to hear songs *na hindi pa nila* time," he explained.

"For the 'young once' *naman*, revivals afford them the chance to reminisce about the good old days. Probably '*yung time na mag*-boyfriend *pa lang sila ng magiging asawa niya*, or *nag-aaral pa lang siya, gano'n*."

MUSIC/ P. D4

VELASQUEZ. It all began with her interpretation of "Narito Ako."

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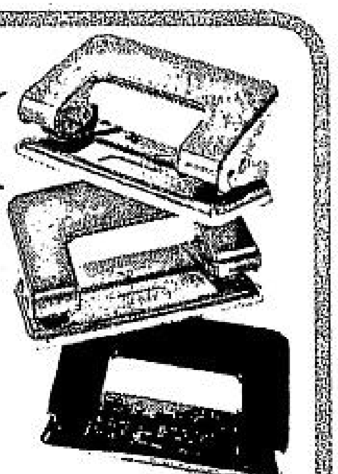
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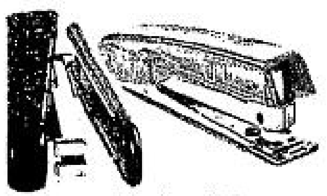
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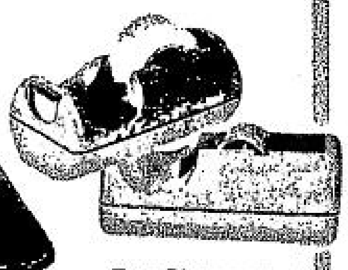
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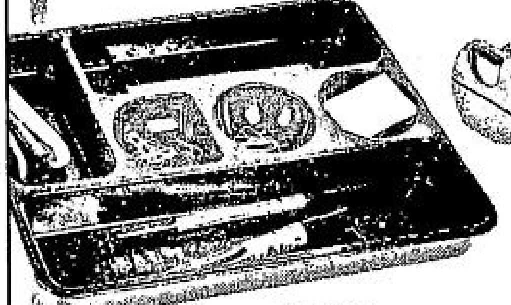
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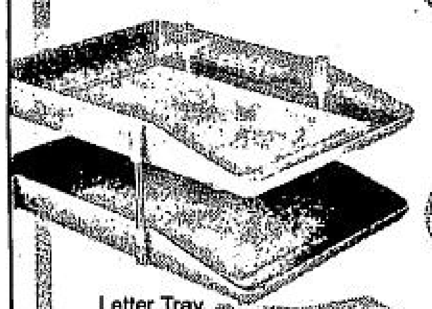
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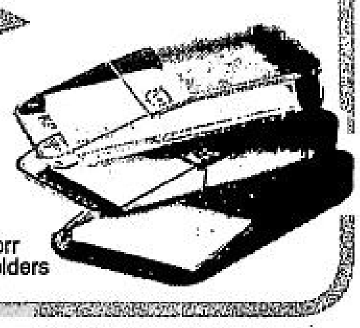
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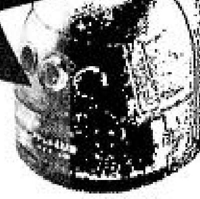
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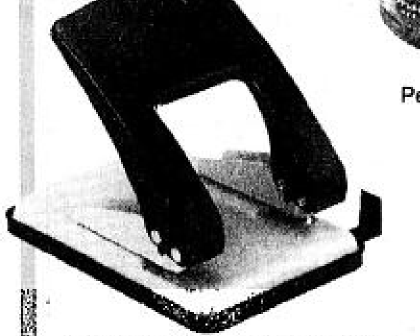
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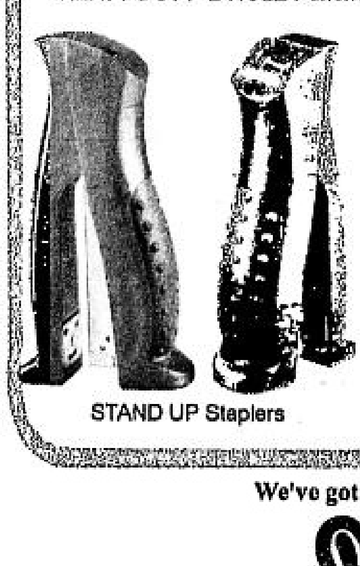
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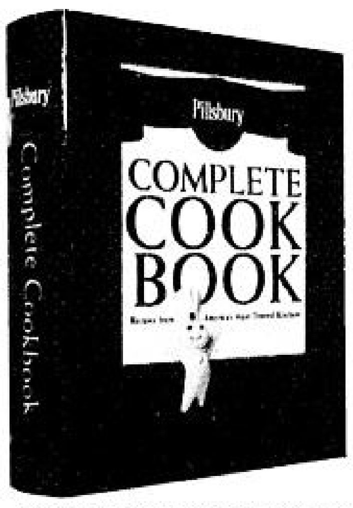
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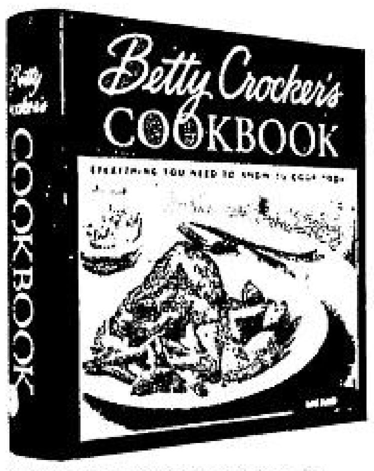
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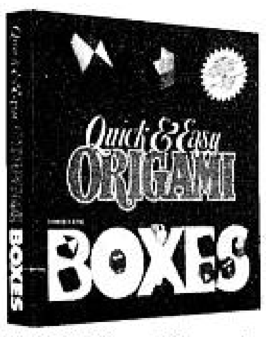
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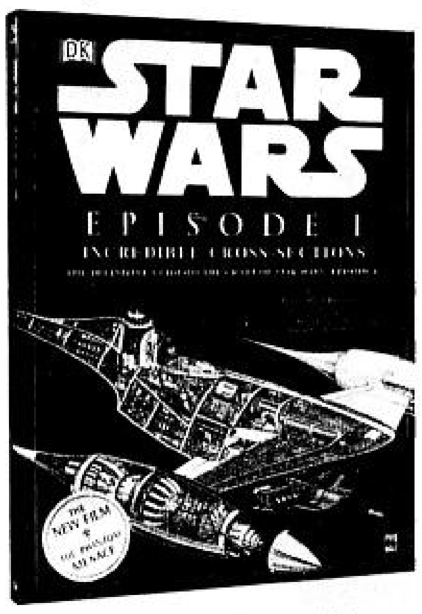
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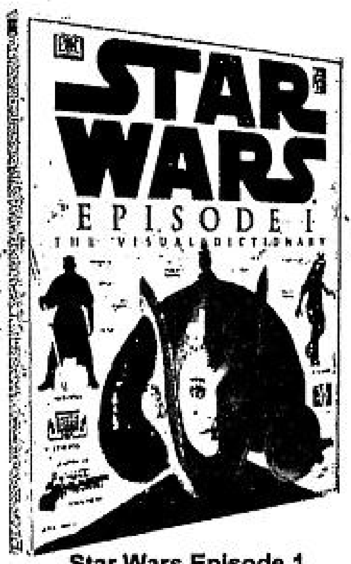
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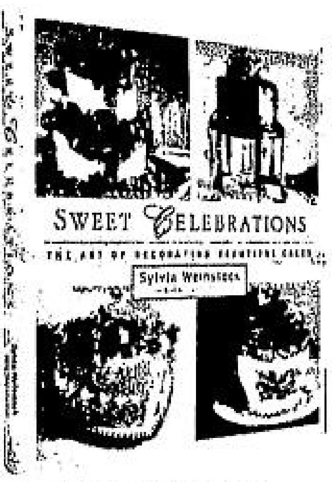
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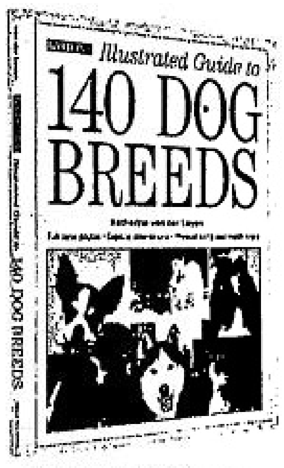
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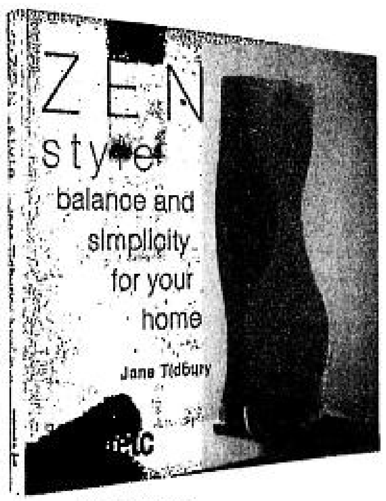
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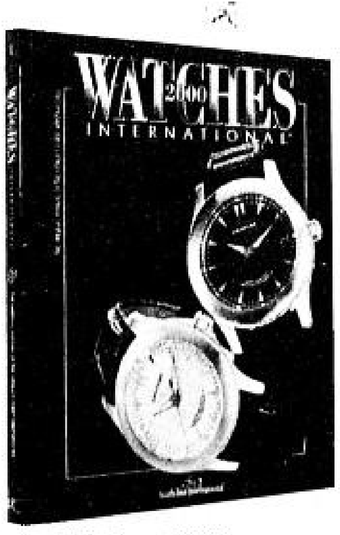
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TWO FOR THE SHOW

Mother Lily loves making movies

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA AND RICKY GALLARDO

MOTHER LILY. Still likes to take risks.

CATTRALL. Has gotten a Best Supporting Actress nomination.

MOTHER Lily Monteverde can predict and dictate what the season's movie trends will be. Her instincts were on-target when she produced "Red Diaries" and launched Assunta De Rossi as a sexy, daring young actress. How did she develop this "power" to influence the moviegoer's taste?

"I just follow my instincts. When I want to do something, I just do it! *At wala namang trends,* you just have to know how to sell your movie. *Paminsan-minsan, nanonood ako ng pelikula sa mga sinehan,* with the exception of big movies like "Titanic." *Hindi ako nagre-rent ng pelikula, nakikisali lang ako sa panonood sa mga anak ko,"* Mother Lily laughs.

"And I am a movie fan up to now. Sometimes we live in illusion, sometimes we want to experience beautiful things. I just give Filipinos that feeling. Movies are always on my mind—when I wake up, before I sleep, I think about movies.

"I'm obsessed with movies. *Hindi na nawawala sa katawan ko ang movies, kahit na sabihing naghihirap ang* show biz. *Nandoon pa rin ang* fighting spirit *ko. Na-*challenge *ako."*

Mother cites "Relasyon," "Broken Marriage," "Manila By Night," "Sister Stella L," "Scorpio Nights," and "Virgin Forest" as her best movies because of their substantial stories and remarkable cast. These movies were directed by notable directors like Lino Brocka, Ishmael Bernal and Peque Gallaga.

"I consider them the best because they can compete with Hollywood movies. I hope I can be a producer in Hollywood," she sighs.

"Before, it was very easy to make formula, commercial hits, but now, it's different. Technology is different, the lighting, editing, and special effects are very modern. Now, even the jokes are different. The taste of the *masa* is unpredictable."

Even if the viewing public has become more discriminating, Mother Lily still likes to take risks. And she doesn't sulk when her "risks" bomb at the tills.

"Fifteen years ago, if my pictures didn't make money, for one week, *nade*-depress *ako*. I would just lie down on my bed at *umiiyak ako*. But now, I take things lightly. *Kumita man o hindi*, I have the same reaction because I believe *na darating din 'yung* right project *na kikita ulit,"* she shares.

"And I will not leave show business, I don't believe *na bagsak na ang* industry. You just have to handle things right and work within the budget."

And handling money and stars is second nature to Mother Lily. She can make and unmake a star just by snapping her fingers. But, her prodigal stars usually soon finds themselves back in her "motherly" arms. How does she win her "children" back?

"I was so sensitive that I cried when they left me. I felt that it was the end of the world! *Pero hinahanap-hanap ko naman sila.* And when I see them, they can come to me and kiss me. I love my stars. I treasure them so much—without them, I would not be where I am today."

Why did they have to 'neuter' 'Sex and the City?'

After all the hype and endless TV plugs about "Sex and the City" finally being part of regular TV programming, we were very disappointed when we tuned in to Channel 9 last Monday night for its premiere episode.

Not that we haven't seen the intelligently written (Michael Patrick King) and brilliantly acted series, because like millions of others who are open-minded and unbiased when it comes to things related to sex, we have become longtime fans of Carrie, Samantha, Miranda and Charlotte, dropping every activity every Tuesday night to catch the show on HBO.

But last Monday, they "neutered" the show on Channel 9, with bleeps every other minute and cuts of very important scenes in between.

First, the show is at 11 p.m. (and last Monday it even started late), so we presume that normal, healthy and decent kids should already be sleeping by then.

Second, there is already a big cautionary announcement right before the start of the program about discretion and so on, and there's also a Parental Guidance sign right smack on the boob tube all throughout.

Incidentally, "Sex and the City" garnered 10 Emmy nominations, including Best Lead Actress for Sarah Jessica Parker, who plays Carrie; Best Comedy Series, Best Supporting Actress for Kim Cattrall (Samantha); Best Writing and Best Directing. MTRCB, can you please lighten up a bit?

Klaudia Koronel's academic pursuits

She still accepts semi-sexy roles on film (like her current movie , "Mano-Mano 2") but Klaudia Koronel is fully aware of the things that matter most in life. This semester saw Koronel going back to the university for a computer course.

She admits that she was initially anxious about how the other students might react to her "bold star" status, but reason convinced her to take the right step. *"Wala namang masama sa pagiging* sexy actress, *dahil* I treat this as a job, *wala akong naaagrabyadong tao. Sana maging inspirasyon din ako ng iba kong mga kasama sa hanap-buhay na kung gugustuhin makapag-aral uli, pwedeng-pwede naman."*

AM/FM

Tough-talking lawyer tells it like it is on radio

BY RITO P. ASILO

MOVE over, Doc Aga. Attorney Aga is here.

RMN's "Ito Ang Batas" (558 kHz, 6 p.m. on AM) reintroduces the non-politician type of lawyer as host. And what a welcome treat that is for us!

Fear

We have been used to listening to lawyers-turned-politicians host radio shows of their own. But more often, these character's disappoint us because they are compromised by their fear of "offending" people—and have this constant need to please everyone, especially their constituents. They always have to be politically correct, so the quality of their work suffers.

But not this lawyer. People call in to ask for free legal advice, and he dishes it out with wit and candor.

His listeners simply call him Atty. Aga. If his veterinarian counterpart on TV, Doc Aga (Aga Muhlach's alter-ego of the defunct "Oki Doki Doc") was known for his easygoing, morally upright ways, this one is respected for his no-nonsense way of dealing with legal problems.

Problems

Some of the stories we heard were about problems we have also encountered: taxicab and tricycle drivers' refusal to convey passengers; late registration of public documents; collection of debt, among others.

But what made his show laudable was that something actually happened: legal problems got resolved. On a lot of radio shows we've listened to, people were always "referred" to this and that agency. On this show, Atty. Aga actually checked documents and gave straight answers to complicated issues.

He admitted that his tactlessness sometimes offended people, but at least he was not insulting, condescending, lecturing nor patronizing.

One case was that of a person who bought a piece of land but did not secure documents of ownership. Reacting to a text message from the caller, who got angry after he said, *"Alam niyo, buti na lang hindi ko kayo kamag-anak. Kundi, sinabihan ko kayong tanga,"* Atty. Aga explained, "I did not tell him he was *tanga*. But I would have *if* he were my relative." And we laughed ourselves silly.

Shoplifters

Someone asked if it was legal to publicly post pictures of shoplifters caught stealing. "Yes," he said simply. He does not coddle his listeners just to win ratings points.

A family driver called to complain that he was fired for no reason at all. But Atty. Aga explained that that kind of employment is "a matter of trust and confidence." This was unlike getting employed in a company, so it was hard to establish security of tenure.

To a taxi owner who acquired his business franchise illegally, you could almost hear him say, "You got yourself into this mess, and now you're asking for help?!" Just the same, he asked to check existing documents and see what he could do to help.

Employment status

To a government employee who questioned his employment status five years after the problem had occurred, he said, *"Kalimutan na ninyo 'yan at tanggapin. Kasalanan din ninyo at tinulugan n'yo ang inyong karapatang magreklamo. Bakit ngayon lang?"* And then he started to explain about "periods of prescription," the validity and importance of time element in legal cases.

To striking employees who sought legal help after learning that they did not follow required strike notice procedures, he said, "Illegal assembly *ang ginawa niyo!"* And that ended the strikers' angry protestations.

Atty. Aga simplified the legal jargon and turned it into something even the unschooled could understand. Throughout the show, "Ito Ang Batas" featured a portion called "Tuklas Batas," about common legal terms and procedures that would be handy to laymen who encountered problems concerning sale of property and execution of compensation: contract of sale, contract of agency to sell, writ of execution, period of prescription, etc.

Dry humor

His dry humor is even more entertaining than his legal advice. When a listener complained about the brouhaha over Lacson's alleged criminal activities, and defended Sen. Lacson by saying, *"Inggit lang sila dahil malakas si Lacson sa* 2004 presidential race!," Atty. Aga commented, tongue-in-cheek, "Wow! *Ang tagal-tagal pa, pinag-uusapan na ninyo!"* Later, anti-Lacson listeners answered back, calling the new senator *"salot," "lason sa lipunan,"* etc.

He also wondered aloud about the recent expose on an alleged cabinet member who was reportedly found positive for substance abuse after drug tests were conducted in Malacañang. *Sino nga ba,* Madam Glory?

Atty. Aga may be unconventional, but he tells it like it is. He doesn't mince words, but he doesn't mean to shock, either. You know that he is not just pulling your leg because his explanations are very clear and straightforward.

When a caller sought advice on a matter he was not very familiar with, Atty. Aga said, "Frankly speaking, I don't know." You can't be any more honest than that!

Music . . .

(From page D2)

Chito Ilagan, Vicor's AVP for production, agreed with him. "Filipinos are basically very sentimental," he added. "Revivals bring back a lot of memories. I also think that the Filipino audience longs for the simple music of the past, in the sense *na* simple *lang 'yung* style *at* lyrics. *Ngayon kasi* there are a lot of high-tech innovations incorporated into songs that people don't quite accept."

Observations

Despite these protestations, however, the observers still managed to make a few observations: that doing revivals is "an effortless way to make money and a shortcut for turning an upcoming performer into an instant star."

Meanwhile, in the reel world, critics were preoccupied with actors and actresses whose previously bright stars seemed to have taken on a dull sheen. Alice Dixson's career, when she decided not to go the easy way to fame by turning ST after her successful "Dyesebel," had ground to a momentary stop after her movie with Rene Requiestas turned out to be a flop. The latter's career was also "on hold" for the same reason.

Ruffa Gutierrez proved that she could act when she took on Lino Brocka's "Makiusap Ka sa Diyos" but the movie did not earn big bucks at the box office. It seems people liked her better when she bared some skin, which she definitely did not do in this religious drama.

Other not-so-shining stars at the time were Snooky Serna, Rachel Lobangco, and Harlene Bautista. Critics hoped that these stars wouldn't remain ignored for long. We still don't hear much about them, though.

Sex goddess

The newest sexy flick at the time was the sex-comedy-fantasy "Tukso...Layuan Mo Ako," Gretchen Barretto's "most provocative film" which set out to prove that she was "Philippine cinema's reigning sex goddess." Directed by Abbo Q. dela Cruz, Gretchen played the role of a temptress sent by the devil to seduce as many men as she wanted.

Her victims included a religious grandma's boy played by Romnick Sarmenta, a society boy played by Michael Locsin, a middleclass womanizer played by Jovit Moya, and Mario J. Salcedo, who played a straight soldier. She also managed to snare Jojo Alejar, who was St. Peter's instrument of wrath sent to earth to put a stop to her sexcapades.

Gretchen's newest ST stunt was her "stimulating dance number" in front of the devil before she left for her mission. Some people called the movie "very sensuous" and a "terpsichorean delight." Other stars in the movie were Jennifer Sevilla, Janet Arnaiz, Maritoni Fernandez, Romy Diaz, Mely Tagasa, Joonee Gamboa, Dexter Doria, Beverly Salviejo, and Tony Mabesa.

Other entertainment tidbits then were Eddie Garcia's new talent fee, Maricel Laxa and her preparations for a new role, and Johnny Litton's "Oh No! It's Johnny."

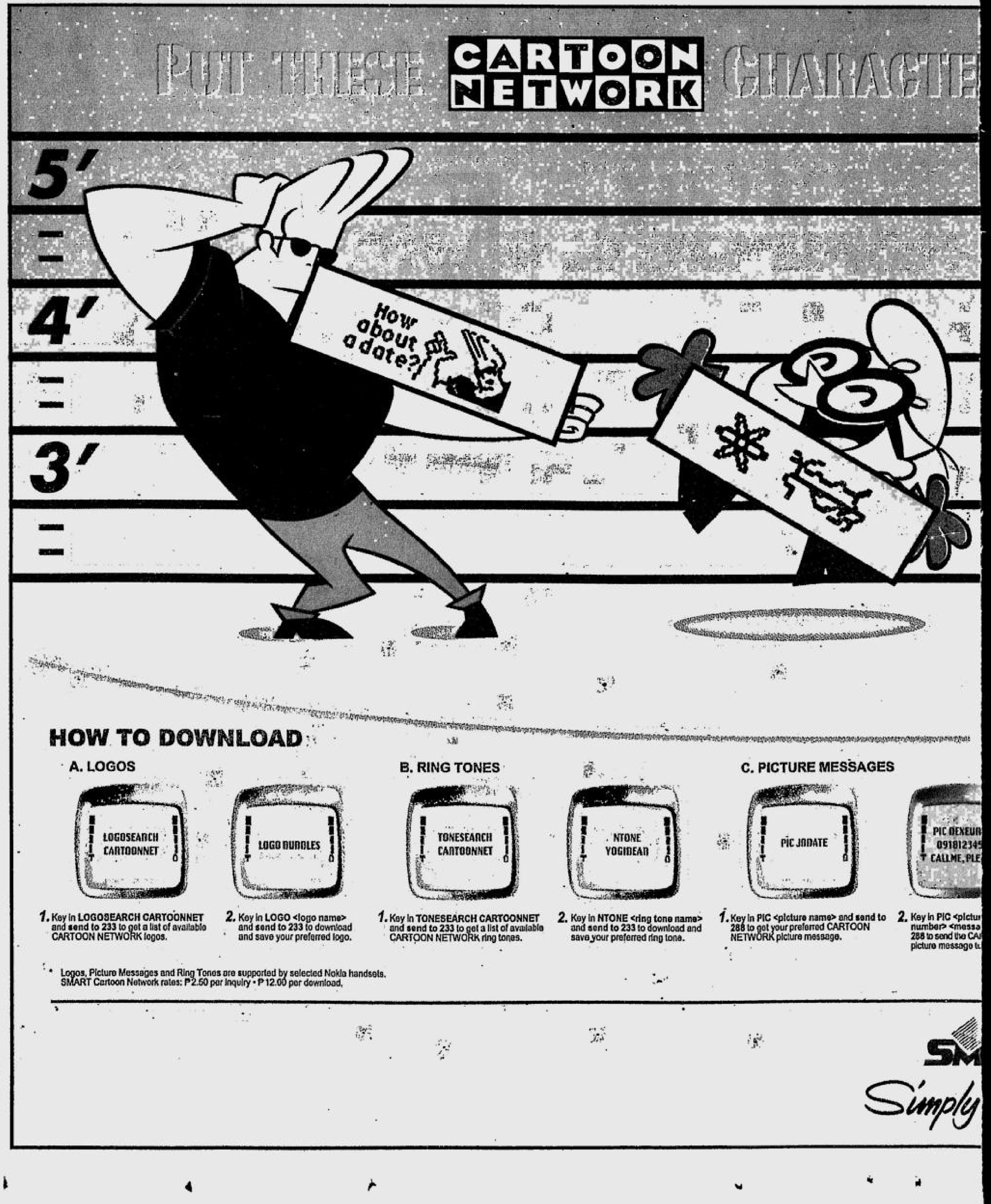
Variety

Eddie had increased his talent fee to P1.5M, but such was (and is) his fame and standing that producers kept on hiring him. Eddie was wise enough to choose his projects carefully, though, making sure to provide some variety in his roles so that the audience wouldn't get fed up with the same, old thing.

Maricel Laxa was reported to be undergoing training to be the country's first female action star. She was doing a number of action films then, and folks were impressed with her "gutsiness" in some of the action scenes.

The daughter of action great Tony Ferrer was also reported to be "at home" in action. Too bad her plans never came to fruition.

"Oh No! It's Johnny" went back on the air after having been suspended the week before because of the controversial guesting of sex therapist Margarita Holmes. If they were willing to do that to a late-night show, they should be more than willing to do the same to the noontime shows we have now, don't you think?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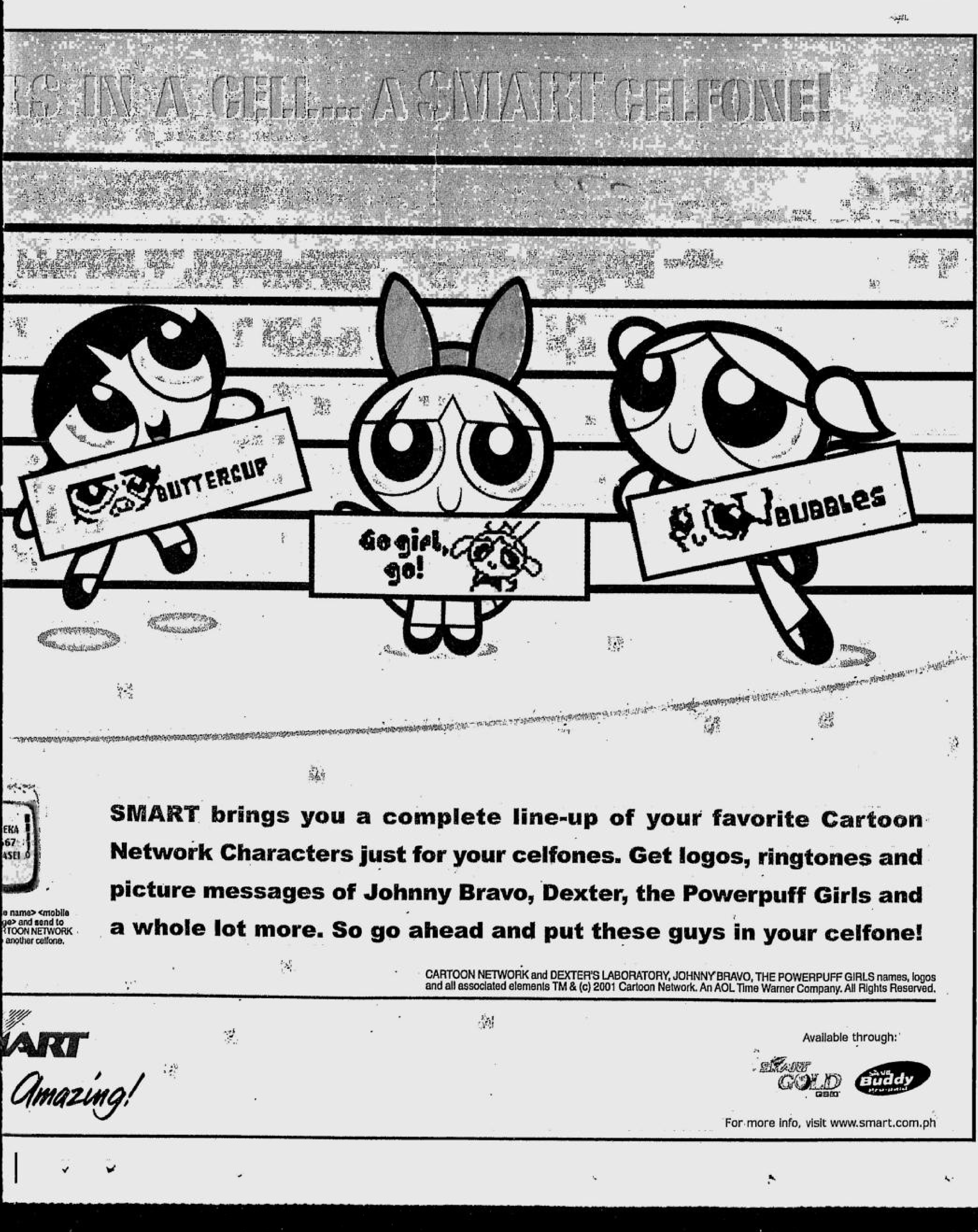
YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM SEPT. 8 – SEPT. 14

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E! 31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 Saturday Primetime Special 9:00 The Bodyguards 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Auto Focus	6:00 Vampires 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *Billboard Music Awards 2001* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's Best 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 To Be Announced 7:00 Invisible Man 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class	6:00 Viva Premiere Night 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 10:00 Fist of Fury	6:00 Digital Tour 6:30 G2 Living 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:30 MYX Sampler	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Sharon Lawrence* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Welcome Back, Kotter* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Jennifer Love Hewitt* 11:30 Extreme Close Up *Bill Cosby* 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Sunday's Big Showdown 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Business & Leisure	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Eazy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies *Greedy* 12:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Bitoy's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 Little Night of Music	6:00 Shadow Raiders 6:30 Crash Zone 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 It's A Miracle 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	5:00 PBA Game1 7:30 PBA GAme 2 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva Music Channel 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Belle 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! True Hollywood Special *Bob Fosse* 9:00 "All That Jazz" 11:00 The Best of 60 Minutes 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:30 Kabalikat 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Correspondents 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:00 Metro TV 6:00 Value Vision 7:00 Sigaw 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Speed	6:00 F 6:30 Mahha Go Go Go 7:00 The Big Night *Meeting Venus* 9:00 Life With Roger 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonballZ 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Pinoy Blockbusters 10:15 Kiss Muna 11:00 Front Page 11:30 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Sparks 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 NYPD Blue	6:30 Viva Proudly Presents 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 WNBA 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Beat UK 7:00 I Dream of Jeannie 7:30 The Nanny 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Twilight Zone 12:00 P. Rock Prof.	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 FYE *Latin Grammys 2000* 9:00 FYE *Buenos Aires Nightlife* 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild on *Spain* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Oka Tokat 9:30 Regal Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Mission X 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Best of Sydney Olympics 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Business Insights	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:00 ABC Action Theater *Alien Weapon* 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Rx Files 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:45 Kasangga 11:00 Front Page 11:30 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Stark Raving Mad 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Pretender 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Viva Action Cinema 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:30 Viva Music Channel 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Later with Jools Holland 7:00 The Three Stooges 7:30 Popular 8:30 The Others 9:30 Mad About You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Zine 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Andy Garcia* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Cheech and Chong* 9:00 E! Special *Ricky Martin Mania* 9:30 E! News Daily 10:30 Uncut *Ricky Martin* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:30 Your Honor 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Isyu 101 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Diyos At Bayan	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Time Quest 7:00 Planet X 7:30 Sabrina The Teenage Witch 8:00 Chicago Sons 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Phils.' Most Wanted 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:45 Larawan 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Imbestigador	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Malcolm in the Middle 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo Ay Langit	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 10:00 Blow By Blow 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	7:00 Twilight Zone 7:30 Scariest Places 8:30 West Wing 9:30 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 The Explorer 12:00 Soundcheck	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Latin Beat* 8:00 The Latin Grammys 2001 (re-broadcast) 10:00 Alma Awards 10:30 David Letterman 11:30 Wild On *South Beach* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Home Along da Riles 9:30 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Pipol 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 Shop @ Home 5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Best Of Sydney Olympics 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Concert At The Park 11:00 Fora Medica	6:00 Shulato 6:30 Fancy Lala 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Normal Ohio 9:30 The Exchange 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:00 New York Undercover	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:35 Sinerama 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Debate with Mare at Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Amazing People 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 The Basketball Show 11:30 Police Hour	6:30 TeleViva Specials 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:00 UAAP Season 64 7:00 The Green Hornet 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Gloria Estefan* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Rudy Galindo* 9:00 FYE *Brazilian Holiday* 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 10:30 Uncut *Gloria Estefan* 11:30 Extreme Close
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Digimon 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 True Crime 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Patrol 117 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Lazenca 6:30 Restol 7:00 By Request *LFO* 8:00 Touched By an Angel 9:00 Working 9:30 On-Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office *A Time To Kill*	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Pokemon 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:15 GMA Love Stories 11:00 Front Page	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Holding the Baby 8:00 Dharma & Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 10:00 Let's Play Pool 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Last Fool Show	6:00 Halo-Halo 7:00 Batman 7:30 Baywatch 8:30 Mortal Combat 9:30 Hidden Camera 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Nightman 12:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Sun, Salsa and Stars* 8:00 Mysteries and Scandals 8:30 FYE *South Beach* 9:00 FYE *Forever Tango* 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 10:30 Wild On *The Spanish Riviera*



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MTV launches another VJ hunt

By Gloria P. Sicam

CHECK out this want ad: "Urgently needed: Human Being, 18 years old and above." There are no other requirements. That's what the MTV VJ Hunt claims, anyway.

Auditions

Of course, there are still certain things you must do once you get to the audition, but to enter, that's the only requirement they have: That you be a human being! There were several issues that came up during the press launch, though . . . like why does it seem like they hire a lot of "half-breeds" with American accents from the Philippines? Meaning, half-Filipino, half-American or European? Is that a requirement, too?

Not at all, says Rod Nepomuceno, marketing and communications director of MTV Philippines. It just so happens that these so-called "half-breeds" were the ones who were able to connect with the camera. There is no preference for Fil-Ams, they just happen to be more comfortable in front of the camera.

Would they hire a gay VJ? Why not, the panel responds. The requirements do not include sexual orientation. The item doesn't even exist on the application form. Are there gay VJs? "Not that I know of . . . not openly, anyway" quips KC Montero, a somewhat representative of the Filipino VJs who have won, along with Donita and Belinda.

Musical know-how

What about musical know-how, is it an advantage? KC says it helps to love music, because when you're on camera, you must talk like you know what you're talking about. If you don't know, you read it off a cue card, and it's harder to pretend you know what you're talking about.

But you don't have to know everything—just enough to come off as a good host. But just to show you how much KC has learned already, he could name the lead singer of several bands, and even the bass guitarist of another.

What do you have to do during the audition? We asked KC, and his answer was, "I sold my soul to the devil." He says with a wicked grin. "I went to the office, I was asked to say my name, to introduce a video, to say stuff about myself . . . I just basically went there and goofed off in front of the camera." This ain't no acting job . . . all you have to be is yourself.

"You need to be someone who can make fun of yourself, laugh at yourself, and not get embarrassed easily." A strong sense of self-esteem seems to be a key ingredient right there.

Someone asked, is it true that since they have launched this MTV VJ Hunt, they're getting rid of an existing VJ? Everyone automatically looks at KC. He holds up his hands as if in surrender and says, "Actually, this is also my goodbye party! So I'll see you around!"

After the laughter subsides, Rod says no, they're not kicking out one VJ to make room for the next one . . . they're just . . . hiring another one. That's all.

And who wouldn't want to be an MTV VJ? You get to wear cool clothes, talk incessantly into a camera, listen to music all day, and hang out with gorgeousness like KC and Donita and Belinda . . .

You get to be an endorser of products, if you're lucky . . . and, if you're into noble stuff, you also get to be a role model of the youth. You are, after all, going to be part of a channel this generation watches every single day. But heck, no pressure!

MTV/ P. D7

Kristine Hermosa turns 18

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BY EDMUND L. SICAM

KRISTINE Hermosa, star of the ABS-CBN teleserye "Pangako Sa 'Yo," turns 18 tomorrow, Sept. 9 and will officially mark her transition to young adulthood with a debut celebration at the Main Lounge of the Manila Polo Club, Forbes Park, Makati City.

It took four months to prepare for the much-awaited occasion, which will have all the trimmings of a grand debut. She will be wearing three gowns designed by Randy Ortiz for the special day.

Special friend

Special friend Jericho Rosales will be her escort while the 18 roses include Piolo Pascual, Patrick Garcia, Paolo Contis, John Lloyd Cruz, Baron Geisler, Onemig Bondoc, John Prats, Mark Lapid and Dominic Ochoa.

The 18 candles will be made up of Vanessa del Bianco, Roselle Nava, Desiree del Valle, Dimples Romana, Julia Clarete, Ciara Sotto, Jodi Santamaria, Sarah Christophers, Cheska Garcia, Anna Larrucea, Hazel Ann Mendoza and her sister Kathleen.

What does the debutante hope she will receive as a special gift? Kristine wishes to get a driver's license but more important a car, preferably a RAV 4, to go with it. She certainly deserves it, considering how successful "Pangako" has been and the many projects that have been keeping her busy.

(She will soon come out in Star Cinema's youth movie, "Trip," and is currently working with Tarlac governor Lito Lapid on a movie called "Dugong Aso," where she says she's treated like a princess on the set.)

HERMOSA. Three gowns for the celebration.

In fact, driving her own car would be a grand gesture from her parents that she's been given more freedom and responsibility. After all, her mom still will not allow her to go out without a chaperone, and anyone who wants to court Kristine is still carefully screened.

Not that the actress is complaining. She's glad that her parents watch closely over her. So we asked her when she will be allowed to spread her wings and fly on her own—when she's 35?

Kristine laughed and said she hopes things will be different when she turns 19. Despite the restrictions on her, her friendship with Jericho continues to grow. She admits that they get along very well, though she confesses Jericho sometimes has weird tastes. For instance, her costar loves surfing and has been egging Kristine to join him, but she would rather jet ski.

Giddy

She was giddy the evening we talked to her at a special presscon called by ABS-CBN. Despite the fact that she has a busy schedule, the wear and tear of continuous tapings and sleepless nights didn't show on her lovely face. Sleep has become a luxury for her because of all-night tapings. Thanks to catnaps and vitamins, she has managed to keep her energy at a high level to face her grueling schedule.

Many of her scenes call for her to shed tears, something she finds easy to do. She's been able to internalize her role and uses her heartaches to motivate her in the more dramatic moments in her *teleserye*. She doesn't need Visine to fake her crying scenes.

Allowance

As with many young stars, Kristine's mom, Ma. Alma Orille, handles her money. She gets a regular allowance to spend on her daily needs but gets something extra when the occasion calls for it. Part of her money has been invested in a condo.

Some might fault Kristine's mom for her overprotectiveness but the debutante is not complaining. She says, "Deep inside, I feel mature"—and that's all that matters.

Promising films on television this week

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

FOR film buffs who like watching movies at home, here are some promising films showing on TV this week:

HBO

Saturday, Sept. 8 at 12:15 p.m., "Matrix." A computer hacker undergoes intensive training to save mankind from total domination by a super-advanced cyber intelligence. Starring Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne and Carrie-Anne Moss.

At 9 p.m., "Erin Brockovich." Based on actual events, this drama is about a law clerk who leads an investigation and lawsuit against a utility company suspected of covering up a toxic waste scandal. With Julia Roberts and Albert Finney.

At 3:45 a.m., "The Two Jakes." Not a very good film, but interesting because it is directed by Jack Nicholson, who also stars in it. This sequel to "Chinatown" investigates a complex case of adultery and shady real estate deals. With Harvey Keitel, Meg Tilly, Madeleine Stowe and Eli Wallach.

Sunday, Sept. 9 at 9 a.m., "Apt Pupil."

At 11: 20 p.m., 'The Story of Us," A married couple deals with the highs and lows of 15 years of marriage to try to discover why they first fell in love. Starring Bruce Willis and Michelle Pfeiffer.

Monday, Sept. 10 at 4 p.m., "Heaven Can Wait." If this is the 1943 film directed by Ernst Lubitsch, it stars Gene Tierney and Don Ameche. If it's the 1978 movie, it topbills Warren Beatty and Julie Christie.

In Beatty's film, he plays a football player who is taken to heaven ahead of schedule, and has to return to "life" in another man's body. Beatty co-directed this film with Buck Henry.

At 9 p.m., "Out of Sight." A bank robber breaks out of jail and shares a moment of mutual attraction with a female FBI agent he has kidnapped. With George Clooney, Jennifer Lopez and Ving Rhames.

Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 9 a.m., "Hero." A man rescues passengers from a crashed airliner, only to see someone else take the credit. Starring Dustin Hoffman Andy Garcia and Geena Davis.

Wednesday, Sept. 12 at 9:15 a.m., "'Postcards from the Edge." Mike Nichols directs Meryl Streep, Shirley Maclaine, Dennis Quaid, Gene Hackman and Richard Dreyfuss in this brilliant cinematic rendering of Carrie Fisher's novel about a young woman falling prey to drugs while trying to pursue an acting career—in the shadow of a famous show biz mother.

Cinemax

Saturday, Sept. 8 at 5:45 p.m., "Dick." Two girls wander away from their tour group while visiting the White House, and stumble upon one of Nixon's infamous, top-secret document-shredding sessions. Seeking to learn how much the girls have discovered, Nixon appoints them "Official White Walkers." Starring Kirsten Dunst and Michelle Williams.

At 7:15 p.m., "The Big Heist." Based on the true story of the 1978 Lufthansa heist. Jimmy Burke and his gang plan the most daring robbery in American history. With Donald Sutherland and John Heard.

Sunday, Sept. 9 at 6 a.m., "Revolver."

At 2 p.m., "Tea with Mussolini."

At 9 p.m., "The Green Mile." A moving tale about a cynical prison guard who discovers that a convicted murderer on Death Row has healing powers. With Tom Hanks and Michael Clarke Duncan.

Monday, Sept. 10 at 7 p.m., "Elizabeth."

Wednesday, Sept. 12 at 2:30 a.m., 'Taxi Driver." A film about an alienated Vietnam War veteran who is obsessed with rescuing a young prostitute from her vicious pimp. Starring Robert De Niro, Cybil Shepherd, Jodie Foster and Harvey Keitel.

Thursday, Sept. 13 at 11:30 a.m., "Oliver!" Rousing musical based on Dickens' "Oliver Twist," about a boy swept into a gang of youthful thieves. Directed by Carol Reed, starring Ron Moody, Oliver Reed and Mark Lester.

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Kyla represents Southeast Asia in 2001 MTV Video Music Awards

MTV Southeast Asia announces Kyla for her video "Hanggang Ngayon" as the winner for "The 2001 MTV Video Music Awards Southeast Asia Viewer's Choice Award."

The 2001 MTV Video Music Awards is scheduled to premiere on MTV Philippines (UHF Channel 41) on Sept. 8 and 16 at 1 p.m. and on Sept. 9 at 8 p.m.

MTV Philippines will also air "2001 MTV Video Music Awards Uncensored" on Sept. 8 and 15 at 8 p.m. and on Sept. 9 at 1 p.m.

Votes

Kyla's music video "Hanggang Ngayon" competed against entries from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand for the regional title of the MTV Southeast Asia Viewer's Choice Awards, determined by votes gathered around the region. Viewers submitted their votes by way of voting slips, snail mail and by logging onto www.mtv-asia.com.

"MTV is proud to announce Kyla as the Southeast Asian representative for the 2001 MTV Video Music Awards, to be held in New York in September. Her win is a reflection of the choice of the viewers in the region and is testament to MTV's support of artists on both local and global platforms," said Peter Bullard, senior vice president and managing director, MTV Southeast Asia.

KYLA. Won for "Hanggang Ngayon" video.

Highlights

"With Kyla's win, highlights of 'Hanggang Ngayon' will now be showcased on a global platform via the 2001 MTV Video Music Awards. Our warmest congratulations to Kyla and the team behind the video."

Drowning in self-pity

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

SELF-PITY is simple selfishness that doesn't help anyone. I remember one time when a friend of mine approached my spiritual teacher. She was totally distraught while narrating her heartaches about her husband, who was having an affair. All she could do was list down his sins, and how she was tormented by the situation.

Teacher

After her narration, my teacher simply said, "Poor child, you are so immersed in your problem that you cannot think at all about serving the Supreme Lord and helping His other children. You are simply caught in thinking about yourself."

She had wanted my teacher to scold her husband but she totally missed out on the fact that she herself was immersed in a deep spiritual problem. She was drowning in self-pity.

Many times, when we think about life, we focus only on ourselves and our problems. We are the center of our existence and we want life to unfold according to our plans and dreams. We want things to run according to our will and purpose. And when some drastic incident arises that goes against our plans, we bleat, "What about me? What about what I want? What about my feelings? What about my dreams?"

This is the modern philosophy of individualism—I, me, mine. This is the ideology of selfishness—I want, I plan, I decide, I rule.

Material nature

As my friend discovered, life is not under our control. The wills of other entities are not under our control. She could not control her husband. Trying to dominate and control other people's lives is like trying to control the weather. Fact is, we cannot dominate material nature or other entities.

My friend gave her heart to her husband but he broke it into pieces. My teacher taught her, "Give your heart, give your love to the Supreme. He will take care of you with great love and tenderness."

My teacher encouraged my friend t be compassionate to others and help them in his mission of teaching them about spirituality. He advised her to focus her energies on preaching and giving God to other people. The solution to her problem was simple: serve God and you will be happy. Stop being immersed in self-pity. Instead, absorb yourself in meditation on the Supreme, and serve Him with your life.

My friend followed my teacher's advice and after many years of preaching and helping other people, she has overcome her spiritual and personal problems, as well. She lives separately from her husband, who is now with a second wife. My friend is happily helping different children of God to know what real happiness is.

DROWNING/ P. D7

Focus on directors Madden, Annaud and Oz

WHEN "Driving Miss Daisy" won Best Picture in the 1989 Academy Awards, irreverent host Billy Crystal said that the film must have directed itself because the film's director (Bruce Beresford) was not even nominated.

Importance

This event made apparent the importance and pre-eminence of movie directors. From Preston Sturges to Ed Wood to Lina Wertmuller to John Waters, directors shape a movie's topographies and configurations and give it soul and a lot of heart.

Three filmmakers in three recent films show us how: John Madden in "Captain Corelli's Mandolin," Jean-Jacques Annaud in "Enemy at the Gates" and Frank Oz in "The Score." "Captain Corelli's Mandolin" producers Kevin Loader and Tim Bevan said they wanted a director who could bring to life a fantastic story based on Louis de Bernieres' novel.

"We wanted a European director who could do a movie of scale," co-producer Bevan says. "John Madden is at the top of that list. He read the script and committed to the movie the same night."

Unusual setting

"The book had a tremendous profile so I'd gotten a whiff of it," Madden, who directed films such as "Mrs. Brown" and "Shakespeare in Love," recalls. "I was immediately moved by the possibilities and dimensions of a love story unfolding in an extraordinary and unusual setting—love across the borders, as it were, during the occupation of one country by another.

"A young woman who struggles with her obligations to her community and traditions and the demands of her own heart and the price she has to pay for what she chooses."

Similarly, in "Enemy at the Gates," director Jean-Jacques Annaud created a story about a group of people whose lives are intertwined for a brief moment in history. "We have taken a historical event and tried to understand what happened in the hearts of people who lived through it," Annaud says.

Archives

"We know about some of these characters from the archives and newsreel footage; the rest is open to interpretation. This is what made this story so fascinating and appealing. The film is about duels and duality, about contrasts and extremes. The event is minuscule, but the propaganda makes it extremely important.

"Two individuals track each other in the midst of millions who are dying. The smallest part is only one little piece of the large canvas, but it consequently becomes the central symbol of the whole."

Winner of the 1977 Academy award for Best Foreign Film for 'Black and White in Color." Annaud's film credits include "The Name of the Rose," "The Bear," and "Seven Years in Tibet."

While "Captain Corelli's Mandolin" and "Enemy at the Gates" are films about war-torn countries in the 1940s, "The Score," on the other hand is a contemporary crime thriller.

Change of pace

"The film represents a distinct change of pace for director Frank Oz, whose previous directing credits have been comedies ("In and Out," "Little Shop of Horrors," "Bowfinger").

It's a drama: a character-driven film built on the framework of a heist movie. When filming began, Oz encouraged his stars to treat the script itself as a framework on which to embellish and develop their roles.

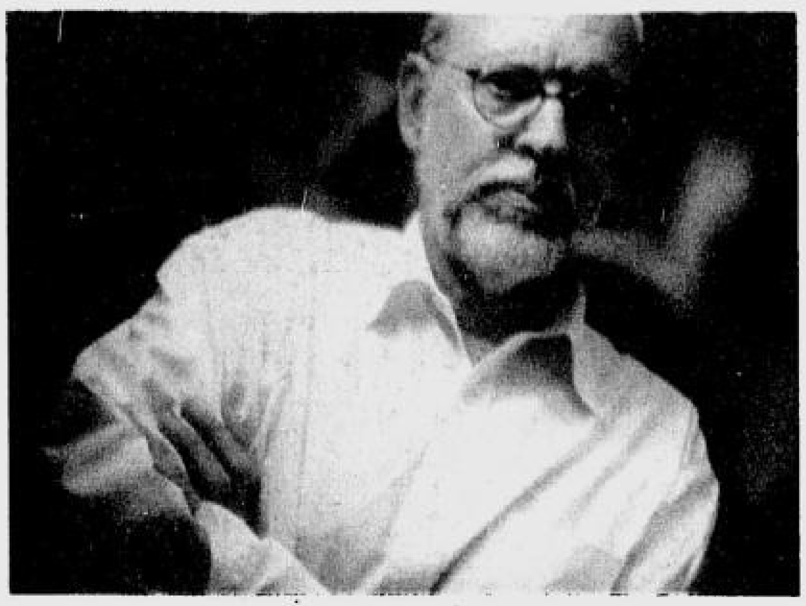
"I really trust the actors to know more about their characters than anybody else," Oz says. "When you have Robert De Niro, Marlon Brando, Edward Norton and Angela Bassett, you don't just say, 'Okay, read the words.' I was banking on those actors coming up with good stuff that was not in the script, and they did."

Improvisation

The results of that process delighted Oz, who felt his actors' improvisations added an electricity to the performances. "The most enjoyable thing for me as a director is seeing sparks when actors work well," he says, "seeing things come alive and cook and bubble, I got a lot of that in this movie!"

> 'The most enjoyable thing for me as a director is when actors work well, seeing things come alive and cook and bubble'-- Frank Oz

ANNAUD. His film is about duels and duality.



OZ. Encouraged his stars to embellish their roles.

MADDEN. Worked on a love story unfolding in an unusual setting.

Pops and Janice, lost and found

(From page D2)

Grateful

"I'm so happy with the way my career has been going. I never planned this, I never even imagined it. It just fell into place. But I'm so grateful that I've been given a second chance.

"I've never done hosting before, that's why I find new challenges everyday. My brain constantly works, the adrenaline is sometimes unstoppable," smiles Janice. "As a host, I have to be on my toes all the time. I'm truly enjoying it."

However, she can't help but ask, *"Ito ba ang kapalit ng lahat?* If my marriage hadn't failed, would this have happened? At the end of the day, is this what I really want?"

Janice answers her own question: "Of course, my family is still my priority. And if God would ask me to give this all up for my family, I would, without a doubt. *Kahit ngayon din.* I've always wanted to have a complete family."

But lest she be misinterpreted, she cautions, "But if I thought there was no hope anymore, then I'd be the first to make it final."

As of now, Janice claims annulment is farthest from her and John's minds. "It's a long and tedious process we're not ready to face yet," she sighs.

These two women have gone through the fire and emerged as fighters. One has somehow achieved some kind of closure, while the other is still in the process of determining the end of her journey as a newly-separated woman.

MTV

(From page D5)

Here's how to join—MTV Philippines will be conducting a nationwide search at the following malls: SM Megamall, on Sept. 8 and 9, SM Cebu, on Sept. 15, Robinsons Place Bacolod City, on Sept. 22, Gaisano Mall Davao City on Sept. 29, SM Manila on Oct. 6 and Lim Ket Kai, Cagayan de Oro City on Oct. 13. All they'll have to do is talk in front of a camera in front of the people at the mall.

Demo tapes

For the shyer ones, or those who may not make it to the malls on those days, MTV is also accepting pictures, resumes, and demo tapes from VJ Hunt applicants. They can send entries to "MTV Philippines VJ Hunt 2001," P.O. Box 1696, Makati Central Post Office, 1256 Makati City, Philippines. The deadline for the submission of entries is on Oct. 10, 2001.

Ten VJ Hunt finalists will be chosen, and the winner of the VJ Hunt will be announced at the final party on Nov. 24, in Metro Manila. The winner gets a three-month contract plus a round-trip ticket to visit the MTV Asia studios in Singapore.

So if you're a human being, above 18, love to talk, and love music, think about it. This may be your chance to make . . . uh, history.

Drowning

(From page D6)

Compassion

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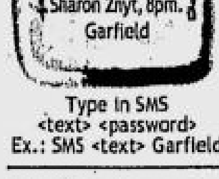
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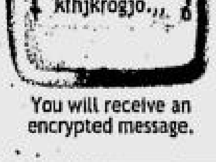
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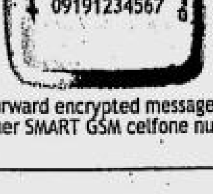
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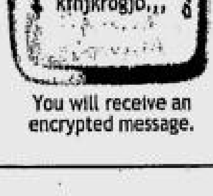
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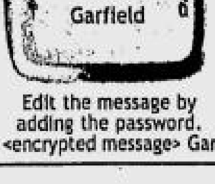
sms
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Garfield

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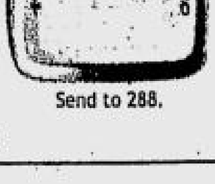
Ex.: <encrypted message> Garfield



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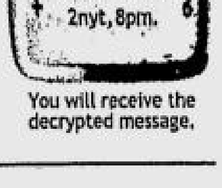
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'I have never given up on this country'–Ryan Cayabyab

BY BIBSY M. CARBALLO

RYAN Cayabyab, master composer, conductor, musical director and music teacher, is in the news due to his victory at the international Onassis Foundation Competition for Dance and Original Choreography, for his acceptance of the post of executive and artistic director of the newly formed San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts, and rumors that he will leave the country to take up residence abroad.

Clarifications

One not normally associated with controversy, Cayabyab has agreed to shed light on the matter of his migrating abroad, which despite his repeated clarifications continues to circulate, particularly in the music community.

Holder of a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of the Philippines, Ryan is a full-time professor at the Department of Composition and Music Theory, a post he has held for the past 18 years.

CAYABYAB. Master composer, conductor, musical director and music teacher.

Admitting that he felt he had done everything within his milieu and was getting bored, he explains, "I have always dreamed of getting a higher education so that I can share new ideas with my students the moment I return. I had no intentions of leaving the country to seek greener pastures and never come back. I have never given up on this country!"

"I wanted to seek new challenges, climb the highest mountains and swim the deepest seas. What I want to do is go out into the fray, bring my country's colors whereever I go, and show the world the kind of stuff that Filipino artists and composers are made of.

"Although courage and homegrown talent are all I have, the skill and the stamina may not be enough. One has to plan real well to win in the international arena."

Colleague

Upon the urging of a colleague who had left the country bearing a visa given to aliens of extraordinary abilities, Cayabyab applied for and got the same visas for his entire family (wife Emmy Punsalan, and children Cristinas Maria and Antonio Maria) in November 2000.

Within the same week that he got his visas, which had to be availed of within six months otherwise cancelled without prejudice, Cayabyab says an offer to do something he never expected fell into his lap.

After having been commissioned to do the new San Miguel corporate song, he was requested to meet with San Miguel chairman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., who asked him to organize a symphony orchestra that would be among the best in the country, in Asia, and possibly in the world.

"He said it was one way for San Miguel to give back pride and happiness to the Filipino people. He also challenged me to set up the very first professional choir in the Philippines. I know where my heart is, and I also know where my head is. How could I pass up this challenge?"

In January this year, Ryan Caybayab's one-year artist-hire contract with San Miguel took effect as Executive and Artistic Director for the San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts.

He contacted Julian Quirit who had been resid-

IHAVE/p.E2

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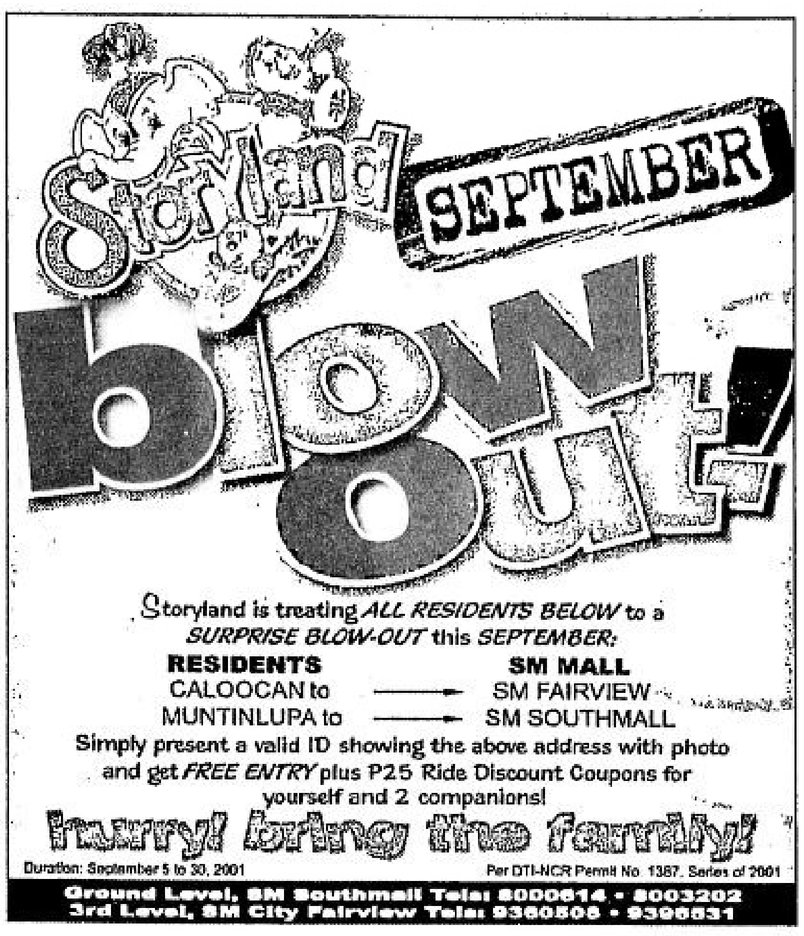

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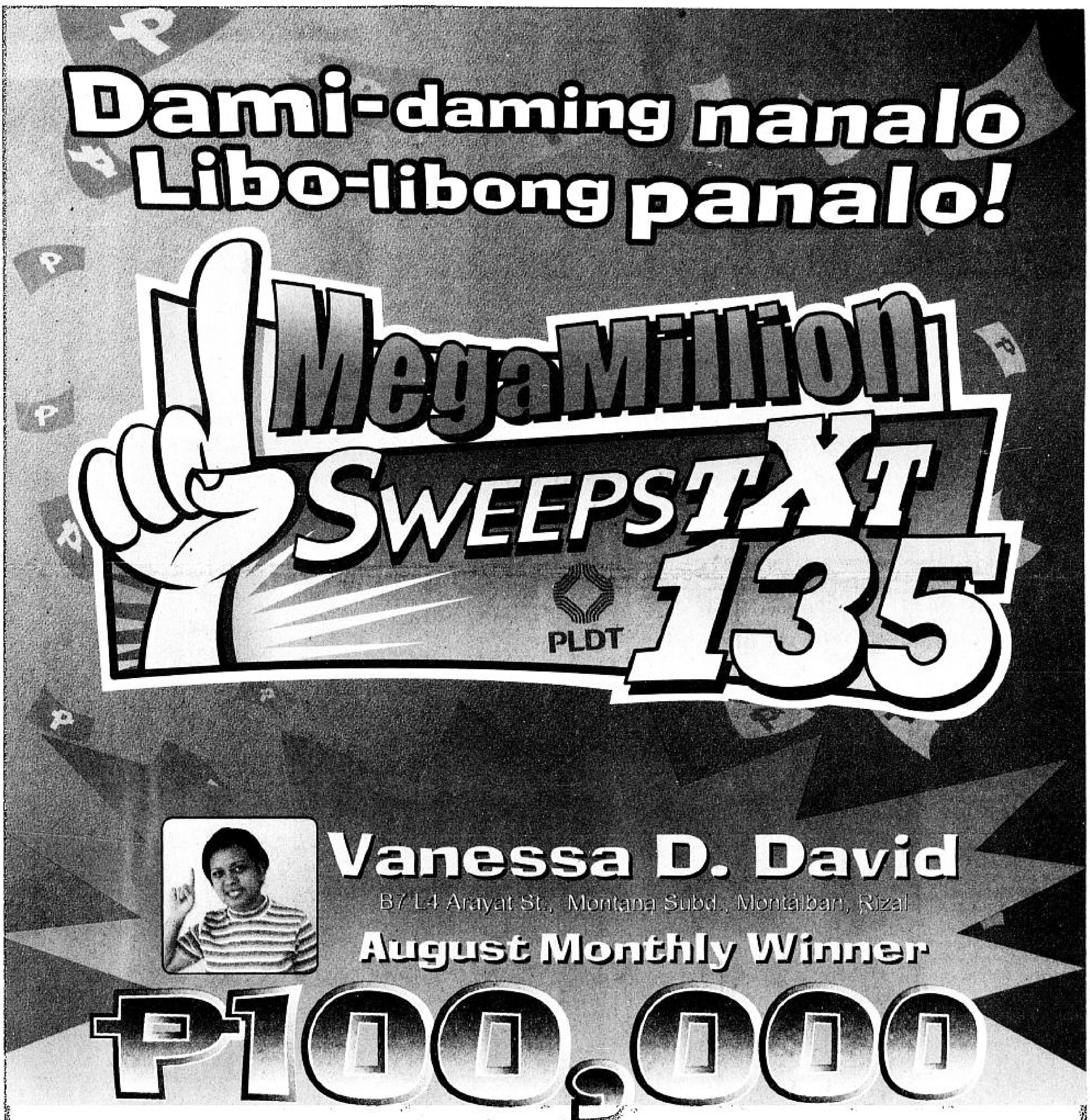

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Virginia E. Gulapa
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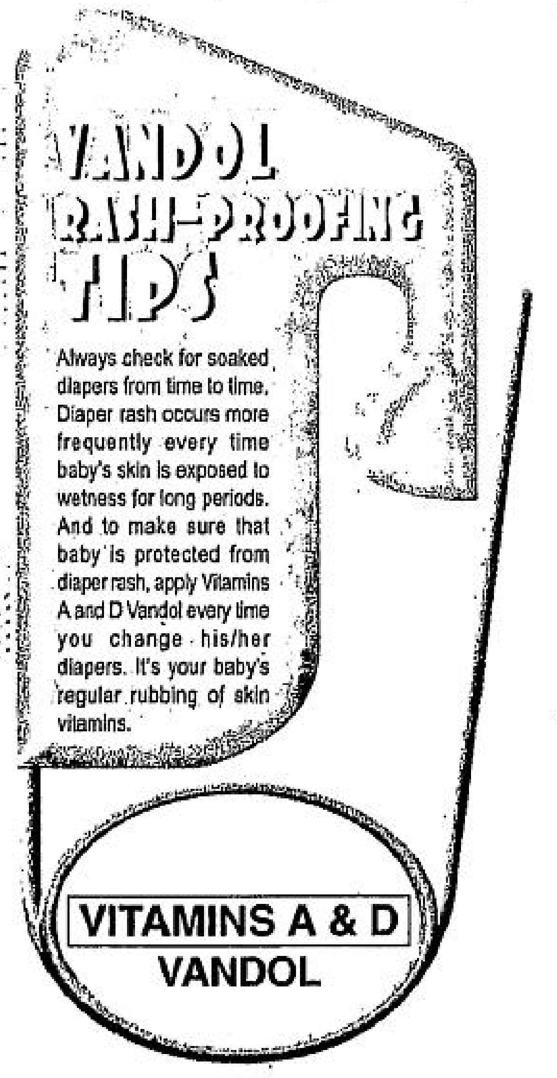

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'I have never given up on this country'–Ryan Cayabyab

(From page E1)

ing in Australia to be music director and principal conductor of the newly-formed San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra, and Jonathan Velasco to lead and conduct the San Miguel Master Chorale.

Inaugural presentation

Both orchestra and chorale will be featured in the inaugural presentation on Jan. 11, 2002 at the Meralco Theater. Other projects include CD recordings and new arrangements, outreach programs, school programs, free and hire concerts, pop and classical programs, writing workshops for choir and orchestra, writing competitions for new choral and symphonic works, international concerts, and performances with international artists, both classical and popular.

Recently, Cayabyab won the Onassis Foundation competition for Original Composition for Dance and Original Choreography. His piece was "Misa 2000" for symphony orchestra and choir.

Cayabyab won second prize, sharing the award with Christopher Lyndon-Gee from UK, and he will receive the award and prize money on Nov. 29 this year, in Athens, Greece. No first prize was awarded and Cayabyab is the only Asian winner.

Of the award, Cayabyab says, "This is my first serious music piece that I have ever entered in a competition, and it won. The first prize was not awarded because, in my opinion, they would award that prize to a deserving entry that topped both categories."

Choreography

Winner for choreography, also second place, was from Argentina; third place for composition from Spain and Switzerland, and third place for choreography from Spain.

Cayabyab has won three other international awards compositions: the First Seoul Song Festival, the Voice of Asia Song Festival in the former USSR, and the Tokyo Music Festival. He considers the Onassis Foundation award the most prestigious and his biggest achievement so far.

As one of the few musicians straddling both the classical and the pop arenas with ease, Ryan Cayabyab's works range from full length ballets, theater musicals, choral pieces, a mass set to unaccompanied chorus, orchestral pieces, recordings of popular music, film scores and television specials. He has produced albums for Smokey Mountain and Lea Salonga.

What would be his dream concert? He offers a short list: Martin Nievera and Regine Velasquez backed up by a pop symphony orchestra in a world concert tour starting in Central Park N.Y., traversing to Paris, to Tokyo, and ending in Manila; Lea Salonga, Regine, and Andion Fernandez in a concert; Celine Dion and Lani Misalucha one-on-one; Luciano Pavarotti with Anna Fegi and Bituin Escalante; Cecile Licad and Yoyo Ma.

Musicals

Among his many theater musicals are "Noli Me Tangere," "El Filibustreismo," "Magnificat," "Katy," "Larawan," and "Alikabok."

He has performed with leading music personalities at the Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York, Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles and Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas. He has had command performances before the heads of state and kings and queens of Morocco, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Netherlands, and President Clinton in the US.

With all his achievements and awards, Ryan Cayabyab remains low-key and unassuming. "I am not aspiring for any award. All I need to do is my best. Awards are just icing on the cake."

QUIRIT. Tapped by Ryan to be music director and principal conductor of the newly-formed San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra.

CYNTHIA Patag was one of Cayabyab's first discoveries.

"I have not reached my peak," he continues. "I am still climbing and learning so much! I want the world to recognize the capabilities and talents of the Filipino artist, hence I will not hesitate to push myself to the limit."

Vast exposure

With his vast exposure in the music field, it was only inevitable that Ryan Cayabyab discover and build up new talents. He remembers Cynthia Patag as one of his very first discoveries. During auditions for the Ambivalent Crowd, Cynthia sang "and I took a fancy to her alto voice which has a very different quality," Ryan recalls.

"When I announced that I was taking her in as a member, the majority of the girls were aghast. They protested that if I took her in, they would resign! Cooler heads prevailed and she became one of the star singers of that batch, which also included Pol Enriquez, Mae Cendaña, and Marita Tenza. That incident where Ms. Patag auditioned will remain in my mind for as long as I live."

On his discoveries, Cayabyab says, "Success in the field of entertainment is not a result of talent alone. There are many other factors that contribute to this: timing (also luck), management, and the X-factor. There are many promising stars, but only a few are chosen to become stars among stars."

Problems

On the local music industry, he says, "We are in dire straits. The Philippine market for music is not growing. The industry is taking a beating from imported music—just like the Filipino film industry, sinking deeper and deeper from wave upon wave of foreign, mostly American, films."

While pointing out that Filipino musicians, by virtue of a long colonial past, have an edge over other Asian counterparts because of our exposure to Western music, he warns, "As we gloat, we see our neighboring countries churning out solidly-educated and talented ace musicians. But the best pop musicians, in my opinion, still come from our country, and if we don't do anything about further training, we will be left behind."

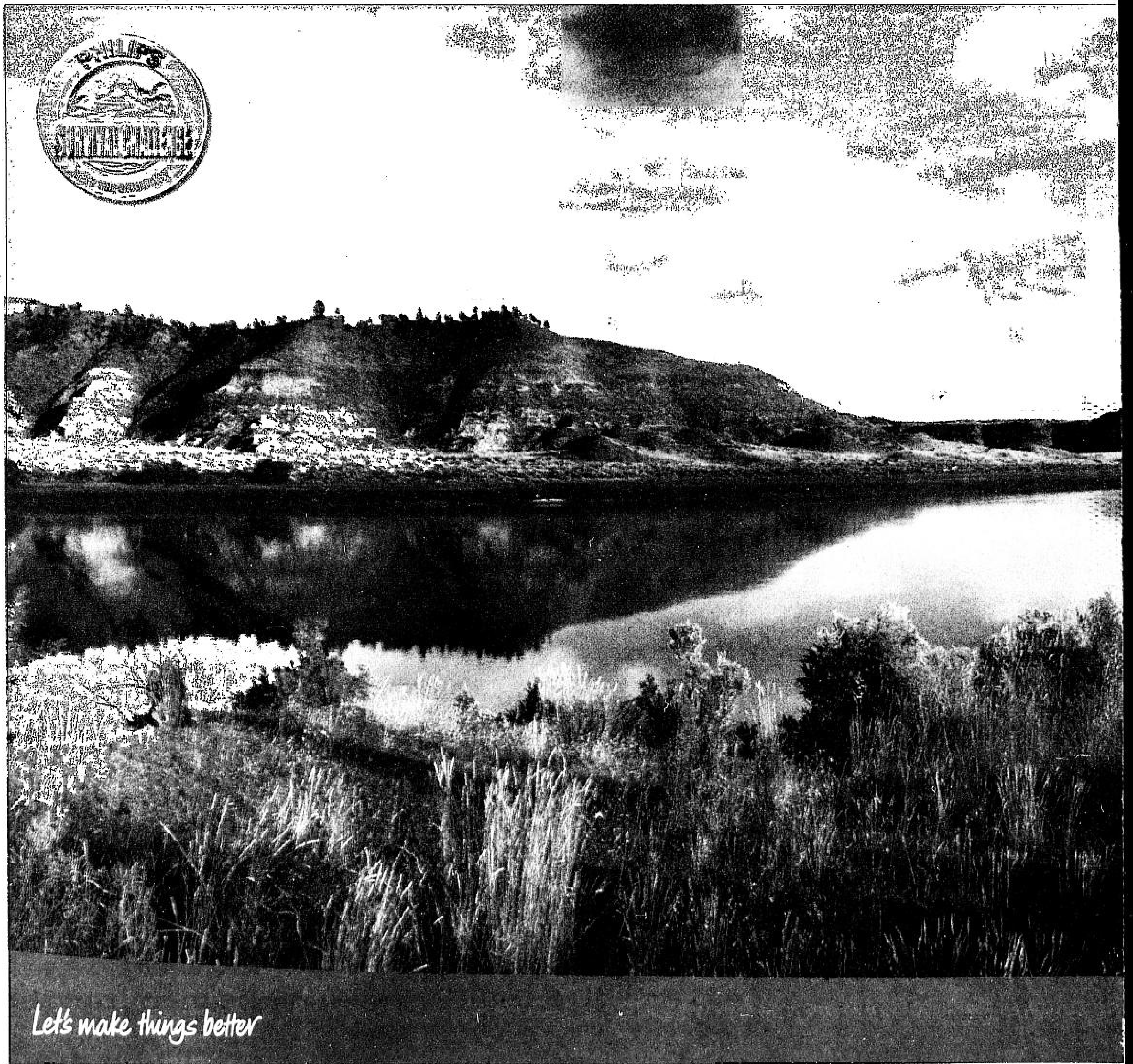
RYAN (right) with BMG managing director Rudy Tee and Lea Salonga.

"MAGNIFICAT." One of Ryan's best-loved musicals.

The compromises local musicians have to make sadden him. Conductors of local musicals have to always make-do with whatever production budget is given, he says, since the market is limited. At times, instead of hiring live musicians, some musicals end up being performed with minus-ones. "That's not right. A musical is a musical because of the music!"

Problems notwithstanding, Ryan Cayabyab persists. Yes, the Filipino can, he certainly agrees! With mountains to climb and rivers to ford, he continues on with his dream to one day see the Filipino singer and musician standing side by side with the world's best.

For comments, you may e-mail author at bibsy@pacific.net.ph or bibsymcar@yahoo.com



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FOCUS ON ASIAN FILMS

Hollywood stars spread the good word about Asian cinema

By Nestor U. Torre

YEOH AND MORSE. Time to help Asian directors and actors.

IT'S ironic that, even as many Asians continue to ignore homegrown films in favor of the Hollywood variety (colonial mentality is alive and thriving throughout the region!), some film people in the west have been speaking up in favor of Asian movies.

Taiwanese production

For example, American actor David Morse (his last films was "Proof of Life" with Russell Crowe and Meg Ryan) has agreed to star in a Taiwanese production, "Double Vision," that's being bankrolled by Columbia Pictures.

The film is directed by Taiwanese Chen Kuo-fu, and Morse says he feels inspired working on the movie because it has a "heroic" quality, unlike Hollywood productions, which tends to be more pragmatic and even utilitarian.

"Double Vision" is about a serial killer who implants a deadly fungus in his intended victims' brains (!). Morse plays the FBI agent who eventually hunts the killer down.

The film may be "just" a psychological suspense thriller, but it's acquired another dimension during its shooting period in Taiwan, and now showcases a number of Chinese religious rituals.

Stellar break

For her part, Michelle Yeoh started acting in Hong Kong but now works in the West, thanks to her stellar break in the 1997 Bond film, "Tomorrow Never Dies." But she remains committed to spreading the good word in Hollywood about other Asian film talents.

Recently, in fact, Yeoh flew to Taiwan to launch a foundation for young overseas Chinese filmmakers. She said it was time to help Asian directors and actors, and to show off "the new generation of talents" in the region.

Yeoh, a former Ms. Malaysia, became popular starring in martial arts movies in Hong Kong. Her most recent international hit was "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," directed by Taiwan-born Ang Lee, who is now one of the most important and busiest filmmakers in Hollywood.

Right support

Yeoh's hope is that, with the right support, other Asian film talents will also make it on the international film scene.

Her foundation is one way of doing this. Another is by providing Asian movies a showcase abroad, by way of film festivals. For instance, in New York last month, the first Korean Film Festival showcased 11 movies for international audiences.

Korean movies have been "discovered" by other countries, aside from doing better at home. In 1998, Hollywood films had a dominant 75-percent share of the movie market in Korea. However, the production of popular Korean films has reduced Hollywood movies' lead to 60 percent this year.

Spy thriller

Recent Korean film hits include the North-South co-production spy thriller "Shiri," and "Join Security Area."

Young directors targetting the teen and young-adult markets have also come up with hit productions, and their films' good showing at the tills has made it easier for filmmakers to get financing for their succeeding projects.

"Joint Security Area" was one of the movies featured in New York's Korean filmfest, which ended on Aug. 24, The film has also done well in other movie markets abroad, including Japan, where it grossed an impressive $10 M.

Other filmfest offerings included a horror movie, "The Isle," a black comedy, "Attack at the Gas Station," and a pro wrestling comedy, "The Foul King."

New York theater

Later this month, "Tell Me Something," another hit Korean movie shown at the filmfest, will be screened commercially at a New York theater.

Another filmfest that showcases Asian movies, this time on a regular annual basis, is the Fukuoka Film Festival in Japan. It has been instrumental in generating regional and international interest in Cambodian, Thai and Filipino movies.

With more showcases like these, Asian films will have an even easier time getting known—and sold—internationally.

Soft and mellow songs in Pido's debut album

By Pocholo Concepcion

PIDO Lalimarmo traces his musical roots to his having been a member of Side A and ArtStart. Those were the years when some of Side A's original personnel had fallen by the wayside due to substance abuse and ego problems.

PIDO WITH TAKE ONE. Their songs offer a kind of refuge for the lovelorn.

ArtStart was a good band, except that we couldn't tell how different it was from Side A then.

Own band

Now, Lalimarmo is fortunate enough to have survived and form his own band that he calls "Pido With Take One." He has been given the chance to record a debut album, the CD of which we have listened to these past several months.

Twelve original tracks and one cover version (James Taylor's "If I Keep My Heart Out of Sight") should please the band's fans, most of whom comprise the hordes that descend from their corporate offices and spill out to get soused in the clubs around the Malate, Ortigas and Makati areas.

These are the so-called fans of live band music who seem to hanker for nothing but note-for-note covers of '70s and '80s "lite-rock" hits, which the likes of Lalimarmo and company (Freestyle, Mulatto, Fat Session, etc.) have come to personify.

In the course of recording the album, this musical preference has found itself in the position of dangerously causing the most lethal damage to whatever artistic freedom Pido With Take One may have been yearning for.

Primary consideration

Give the fans what they want—that seems to have been the primary consideration Pido took rather seriously. But of course, there's nothing outrageously wrong with that. Except that, in this case, the output seems no different from the live covers that make up the band's club dates.

Which brings us to the album material.

We have reason to suspect that the assorted songwriters (Jungee Marcelo, Trina Belamide, Mark Feist, Joey Benin, Noel Mendez) who submitted their respective works were given strict guidelines on the kind of tracks the producers would accept.

Soft and mellow are the operative words, as far as the songs' mood is concerned. At best, these songs offer a kind of refuge for the lovelorn and broken-hearted.

"With Me Forever," "Bakit Di Mo Pansin," "It Used To Be Me," "Is There A Way," "Sweet Memories," "Another Rainy Day," "Cry Of My Heart,"—almost all of the tracks serve as definitive examples of the perfectly-crafted love song.

Melodies

It's not so much the lyrics, but rather the melodies that stick to our minds. Credit this to the hiring of seasoned arrangers who may as well be called masters of the pop hook. And, while we're at it, let the band's keyboardist, Gino "Blooze" Cruz take a bow for producing and mixing most of the tracks in his own studio. He did a good job.

Worthy of praise, too, is session singer Che Che Yeo who seems to represent the best of what the band can offer by way of fresh, invigorating talent.

It doesn't mean, however, that Lalimarmo should rejoice to high heavens. As bandleader, he has a lot of work to do—foremost of which is to learn to write his own songs.

We're not asking that he hog the limelight. He's already doing fine by having a female co-singer in the person of Eva Marie Poon.

This is only the first album, but it would be nice to hear the unexpected by the time the second one comes out.

Otherwise, fans might as well take this band to be "Taylor"-made to follow their orders.

'A Knight's Tale' in Joey's September storm

IT'S going to be another stormy month for the metro as Joey@92.3 FM unleashes a downpour of blockbuster flicks and great music.

On Sept. 3, Joey held the premiere of "Enemy at the Gates" at Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV, starring two of the UK's hottest stars, Jude Law and Joseph Fiennes.

Russian sniper

The movie is directed by Jean-Jacques Annaud and is based on a true World War II story about a Russian sniper who kills dozens of Nazi soldiers in the ruined city of Stalingrad.

When the Germans dispatch their own top shot to exterminate the Russian, a duel unfolds that has viewers at the edge of their seats.

Another action-packed movie awaits all film buffs on Sept. 10 (Monday) at Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV with Joey's premiere of "A Knight's Tale" courtesy of Knorr Soupy Snacks, Estee Lauder, BPI, Powerbooks, SWEEEPSTXT 135, Trolli Gummi Candy and Mossimo.

It features Hollywood heartthrob Heath Ledger in a post-modern take on the medieval story with Queen music as background.

Expect to experience an exciting ride back to the medieval era as Joey spruces up the Glorietta Cinemas complete with knights and horses.

Great rhythms

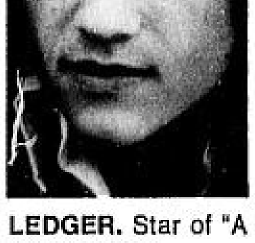
And for a flood of great rhythms, Joey has not just one, but three events. Bituin Escalante and Calvin Millado are back in "Joey's Acoustic Nights" and "Joey's Groove Nights" on Sept. 12,19 and 26 at 9 p.m. at Strumm's Makati.

The power duo is back with Acoustic Jive to fill your Wednesday nights with the coolest love songs and hottest hits.

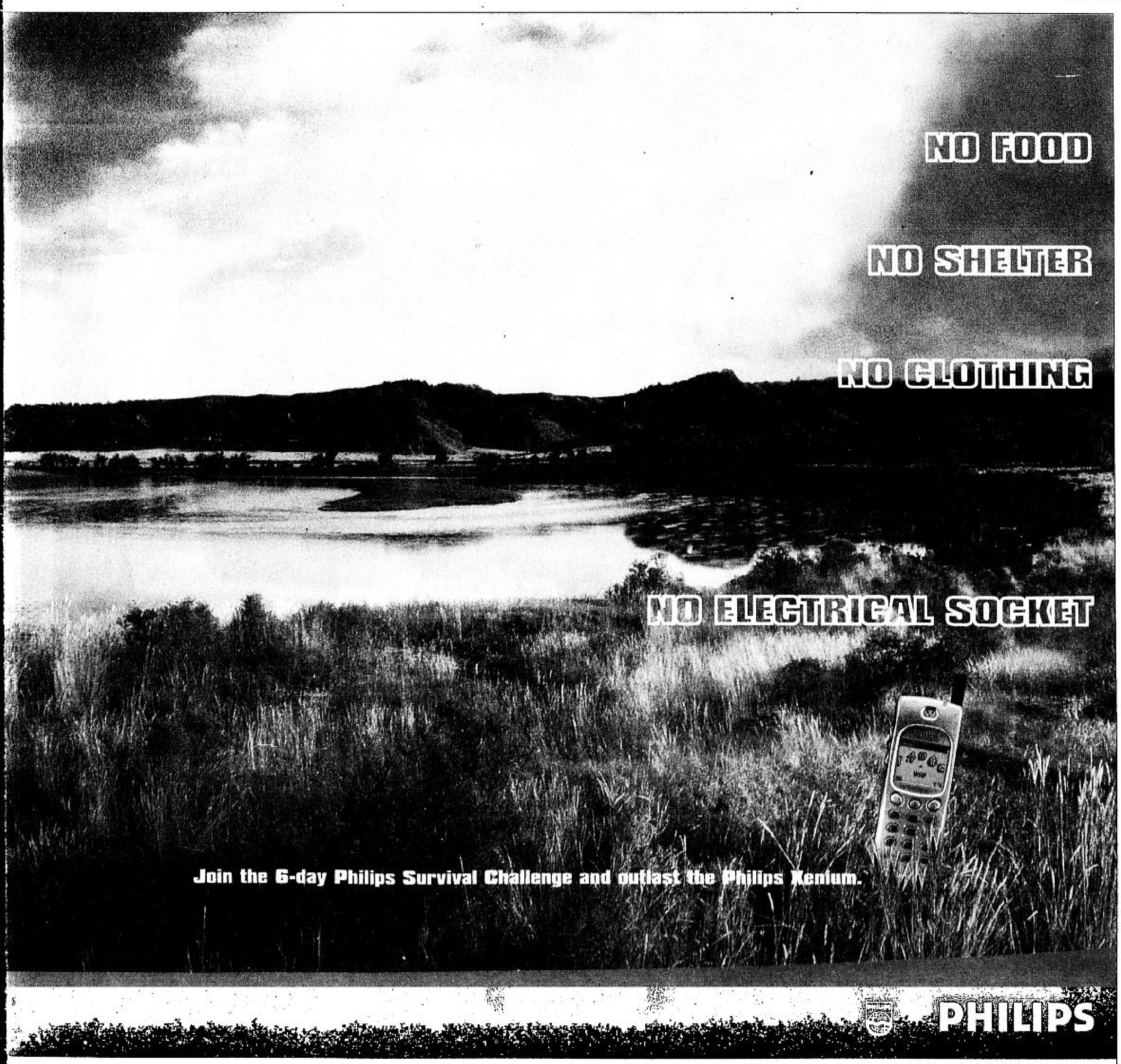
Block off your Thursday nights as well as "Joey's Night Rhythms" hits the newest hot spot in town, Dish, at the Rockwell Center on Sept. 13 and 20 at 9 p.m. Soulid provides the grooves in this three-night engagement sponsored by Subaru and also by Cosmopolitan Philippines.

Lastly, make it a date with Joey on Friday nights as "The Mug Squad" hits Seattle's Best Eastwood (Sept. 14), Rockwell (Sept. 21), Megamall (Sept. 28) and Greenbelt (Oct. 5) at 8 p.m.

The acoustic duo of Nobel Queano and Rodel Vidal provides the soothing rhythms for this popular café tour. Get free hand massages and makeovers and join the fun events!



LEDGER. Star of "A Knight's Tale."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Gelli de Belen loves being a homemaker

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA

GELLI de Belen is talkative, spontaneous and spunky. She simply breezes through everything, and she moves in a brisk and unaffected manner. It's almost surprising that she enjoys spending most of her time at home and that she throws herself completely into her role as a wife, mother and homemaker.

Fabulous

"My married life is fabulous. Better than I imagined it would be. Hard but fabulous. *Parang* career *din* because you constantly have to work at it. My husband, Ariel, is great. Anybody could be a good person, but I'm glad that I married someone who's really meant for me. We compliment each other. We match perfectly," Gelli grins.

But when Gelli and Ariel Rivera started dating, they seemed like an odd match. He's quiet; she's loud. He's a homebody and she likes partying. He's subdued; she's funny. Their differences keep the attraction strong. It also helps that they are good friends.

She's celebrating her fourth year wedding anniversary by December, yet Gelli claims that she feels like a newlywed. What are the qualities she adores in her husband?

"*Madami! Wala siyang* pretensions. *Wala siyang tinatagong ugali*. He's so self-confident and mature. He grew up in Canada so he can do housework. He's not demanding. He's not *seloso*. He's very supportive," Gelli cheerfully chatters away.

Older sister

Though Gelli enjoys her domesticated life, she welcomed the idea of hosting a TV show, "Sis," with her older sister, Janice de Belen. Nope, their opinions don't clash because they usually see things from two different perspectives.

"We respect each other's opinions. It helps that we're sisters because we know each other well. We can go on-cam without being too nervous. *Maganda ang* chemistry *namin*," Gelli stresses.

Gelli admits that she wants Janice to go back to dramatic acting. Gelli cites "Rosenda," "Flor de Luna," "Prince Charming," "Basang Sisiw," and "I Will Wait for You If It Takes Forever" as Janice's best movies. As for herself, Gelli laments that she only did one dramatic movie: "Sarah Jane Salazar," which earned her an Urian Best actress trophy.

Winning an acting award gave Gelli immense satisfaction, but her loved ones (Ariel, Wacky and Julio) give her immeasurable fulfillment and pleasure. She says that having a happy family is more important than having a career.

Unconditional love

Before her first child, Gelli couldn't grasp the concept of unconditional love. It was only after she gave birth to Wacky and Julio that she appreciated her mom more.

"*Dati, nakukulitan ako sa nanay ko. Pero sa kanya ko natutunan lahat*. Now I understand her more, because she just wants the best for us, *kaya siya makulit*. I appreciate her sacrifices more now that I have children of my own.

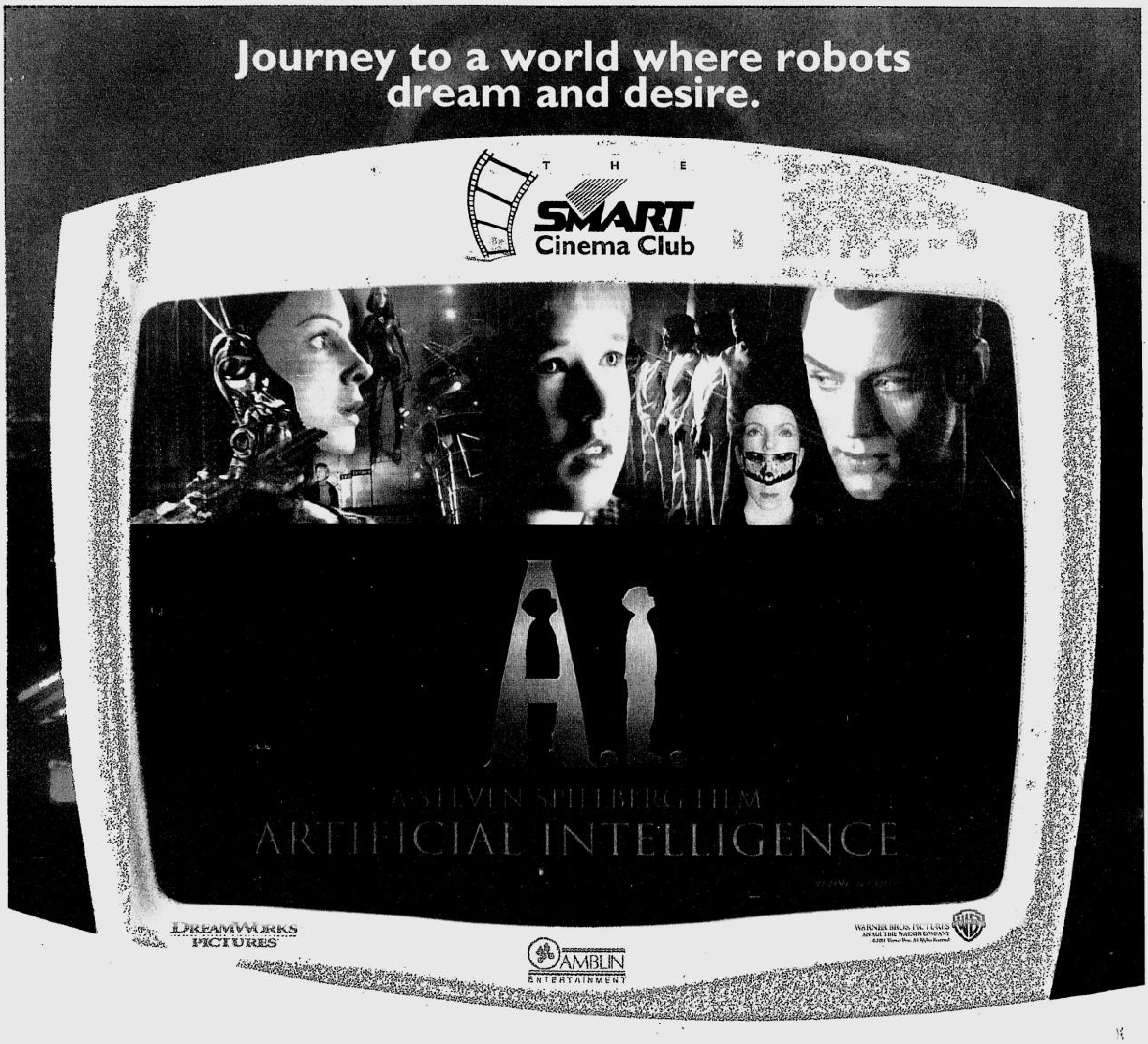
"I also enjoy talking to Janice. We trade 'horror stories' about our kids. Whenever she talks about her son, Luigi and the challenges of raising a teenage son, I say to myself, '*Sana huwag maging ganoon si* Wacky,'" Gelli grins.

Gelli does not miss the active social life she used to have as a single woman. She looks content and happy being a doting parent to Wacky and Julio. She enjoys caring for Ariel, too.

"*Dati pa*-party-party, *pa*-relax-relax. *Tamad kasi ako noon, e*. Now, I just want to devote my time to my family," Gelli smiles.

Judging from her peaceful glow, Gelli has made the right choice of putting her family first before her career.

GELLI has been happily married to Ariel Rivera for almost four years.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Saturday SPECIAL

HAWKE. One of the many actors turned into cartoon-like figures in "Waking Life."

Venice festival gets serious with animation cinema

BY RAFFAELLA MALAGUTI

VENICE—The idea that animated cinema is just for children is being overhauled at the world's oldest film festival, where cartoons are being taken seriously.

For the first time in the long history of the Venice Film Festival, an animation film, "Waking Life" by American director Richard Linklater, entered the prestigious Golden Lion competition.

Festival director Alberto Barbera told Reuters it would not be the last, as this annual cinema showcase increasingly toys with innovative film-making techniques such as digital video using real actors who are then painted over, which were used to produce "Waking Life."

No prejudices

"We have no prejudices on this type of cinema," Barbera told the Italian daily Il Sole 24 Ore, calling digital cinema "the new aesthetic frontier."

"Waking Life" and Indian director Mira Nair's wedding reunion of a Punjabi family gave audiences in Venice a break from the tales of violence and adolescence that have dominated the lagoon city's cinema festival so far.

"Waking Life" tells the story of a young man unable to awaken from a series of intertwined dreams.

Its revolutionary approach to animation—the film was initially shot on digital cameras with real actors and then painted over with a new software technique—recalls art works by the expressionists.

New approach

Linklater, who first presented the film at the Sundance festival in the United States in January, said this new approach to animation was his answer to the question: "How are we to make a film on something that probably exists only in the mind of someone?"

In a series of dreams, a number of characters instruct the protagonist about the meaning of life and death.

Among the many actors turned into cartoon-like figures, audiences could recognize Ethan Hawke, French actress Julie Delpy and Wiley Wiggins of "The Faculty" and "Dazed and Confused" fame.

Every minute of film required 250 hours of animation and 30 animation artists. Each artist worked on only one character for the entire production process.

Linklater, who won a best director prize in Berlin in 1995 for "Before Sunrise," also presented his experimental film "Tape," starring Ethan Hawke, Uma Thurman and Robert Sean Leonard.

"Tape," the story of a reunion between two high-school friends and a girl they both dated, was shot entirely on digital video, a relatively cheap technique that allows directors to work with low budgets.

Homecoming

Audiences preferring more classic movies could turn to Nair's "Monsoon Wedding," a thought-provoking and colorful homecoming for the Indian director after several years working in the United States.

Nair said she wanted the film to be an authentic Indian movie, where music, songs and dances mix with drama.

"This is the closest I have come to family entertainment," she said. However, she also believes that "movies are there to provoke and get under your skin."

On a darker note, the gothic ghost tale "The Others," starring Hollywood superstar Nicole Kidman and produced by ex-husband Tom Cruise, was ready to hit the screens with a bang at the festival.

Reuters

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ALL CLIENTS ARE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT

A new love team is born

The Juday-Piolo tandem clicks with the public

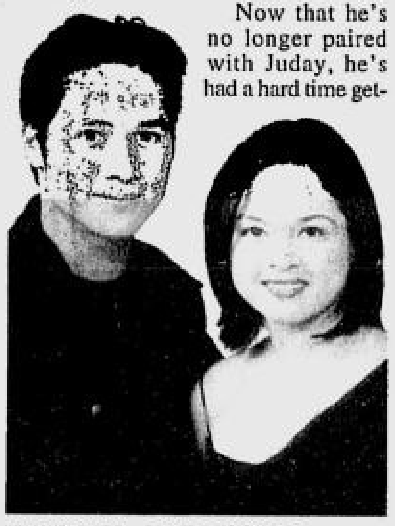
BY NESTOR U. TORRE

WHEN Judy Ann Santos started her stellar career as a young performer, it helped a lot that she was paired with former dancer Wowie de Guzman in a teen love team.

A number of their young-love romantic flicks clicked with the viewing public, and their joint and respective stars rose accordingly.

Disagreements

After a while, though, their love team was terminated due to some professional and personal disagreements. By that time, Juday had become a big enough star to weather that storm, but Wowie was not so lucky.



PASCUAL AND SANTOS. Reel and real sweethearts?

Now that he's no longer paired with Juday, he's had a hard time getting good film offers, despite the fact that he's proven himself to be a very good young actor.

That's par for the course when it comes to local movie love teams and their aftermath: female members of love teams often benefit more from those tandems than their male partners, and have a better chance of having successful solo careers after the love teams are terminated.

This must be because love teams' romantic flicks cater mostly to the female audience, so the members of that audience empathize more with their female protagonists, and empathy results in popularity on the local film scene.

Bankable

In any case, after her films with Wowie, Juday was paired with some big male stars and soon was dubbed the "princess" of local movies. She's become bankable in her own right, and in fact has been used to bolster the initial starring efforts of talents like Mikey Arroyo.

Her latest starrer, "Bakit Di Totohanin," casts her for the first time opposite young actor Piolo Pascual—and therein lies a tale.

To provide the requisite "*kilig* value" for cinematic romantic romps, the young stars of such movies are often reported to be in love with each other—not just on the screen; but in real life, as well.

Kissing scenes

The same thing was supposed to have happened when Juday and Piolo were shooting their movie. This time, however, fans suspect that there's more to the talk than the usual movie promo blurbs.

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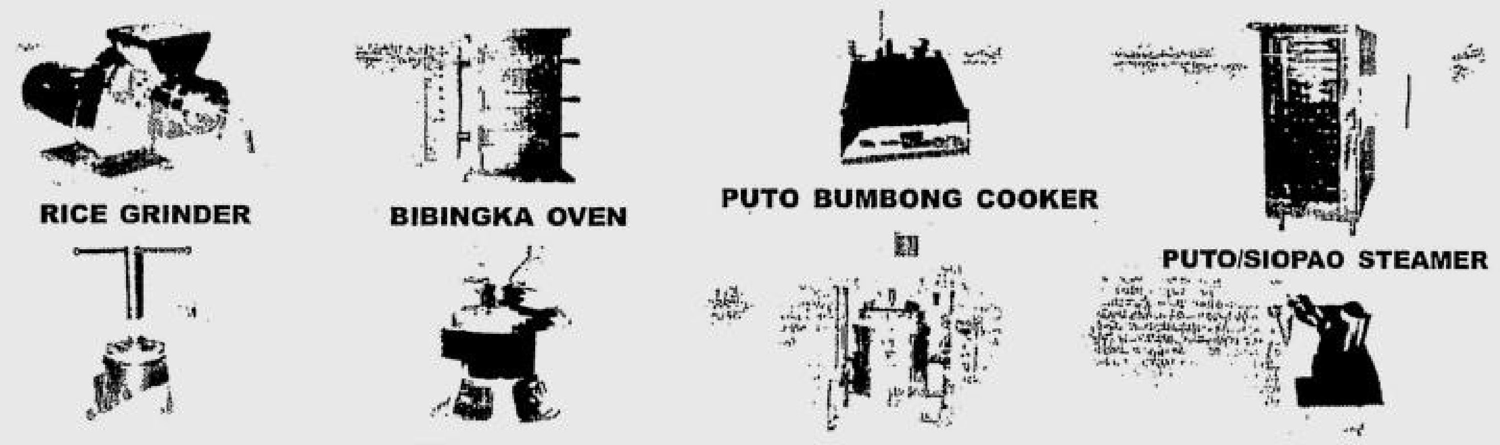

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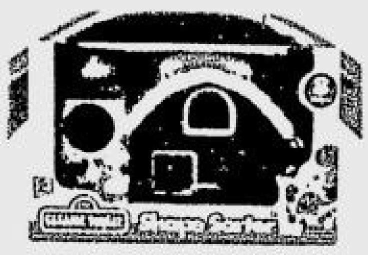

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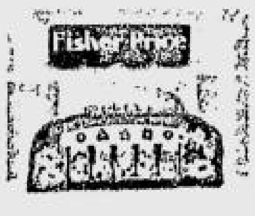

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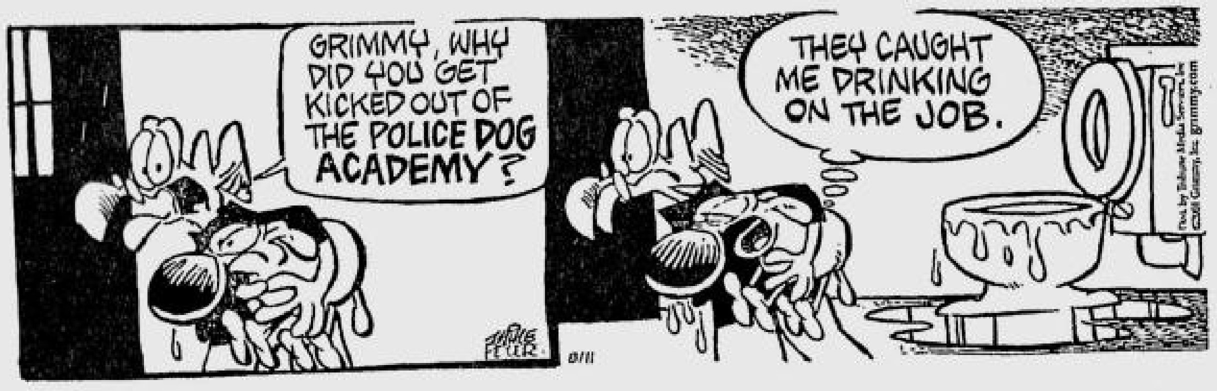
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THEY CAUGHT ME DRINKING ON THE JOB.
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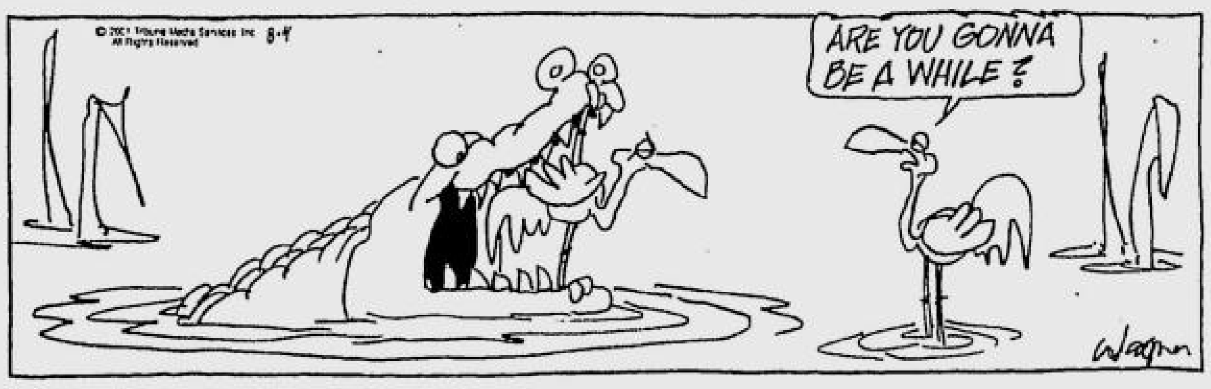
ANIMAL CRACKER
BY FRED WAGNER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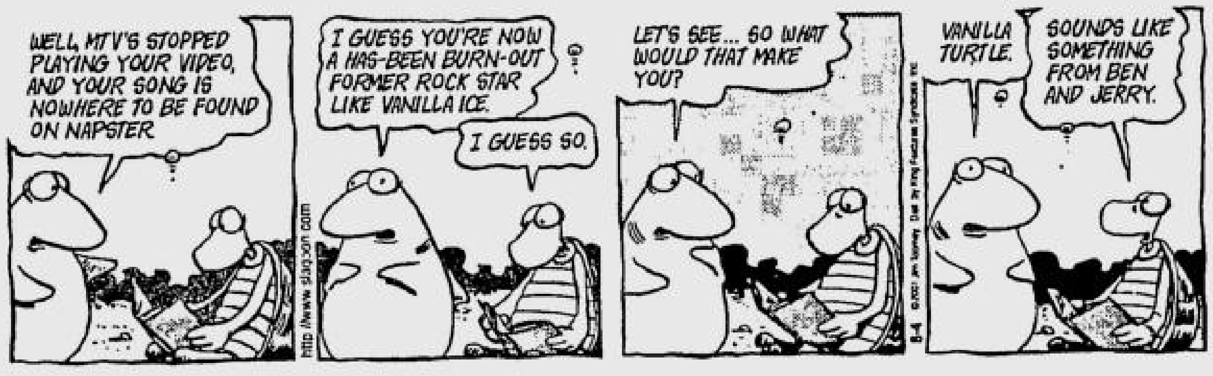
ARE YOU GONNA BE A WHILE?
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY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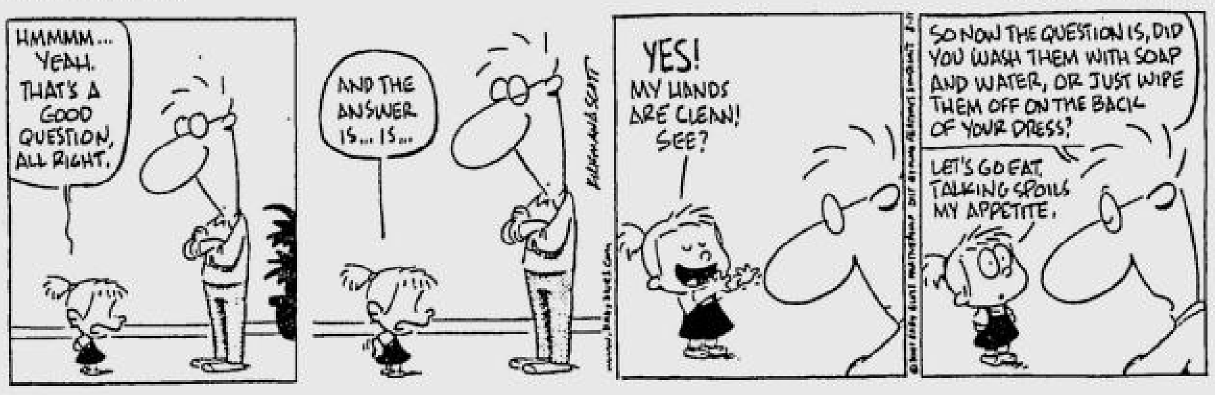
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HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Patsy Cline, Ann Beattie, Aguri Suzuki, David Arquette, Jonathan Taylor Thomas
Happy Birthday: The time for a big move is now, so don't waste time. Your diligence and determination will be recognized and admired. You can do no wrong this year as long as you don't let minor setbacks thwart you. Preparation has positioned you for success and nothing will stand in your way. Your numbers: 3, 8, 24, 27, 35, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Emotionally you may not see things accurately. Don't jump to conclusions or accuse others unjustly. In-laws may cause difficulties. Do some extra work to take your mind off your worries.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be emotionally confused today. Try to refrain from making comments to your mate that you'll regret later. You need to keep busy. Pick up a good book or go out and visit friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't deal with institutions today. You need to be careful not to make matters worse by overreacting to loved ones' comments. Seek legal advice if necessary.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you assume a leadership position at group functions, you will do well. Your ability to delegate will be admired and remembered by those heading the organization.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't become intimately involved with colleagues or employers. Gossip is evident, and it's unlikely an escapade would remain secret.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get away even if just for the day. A drive in the country or a visit to trusted friends will be a memorable and inspirational experience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Moneymaking ventures will not turn sour. To achieve the best results, don't put all your eggs in one basket. Extravagance will be your downfall. Don't spend what you don't have.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your jealous nature—monopolizing your lover's time and curtailing his or her freedom—may drive your mate away. Take a break and make some new friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may not want to work, but you'd be crazy to turn down an opportunity to make some extra money. A colleague may have a strong interest in you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Social events should include travel for pleasure. You will gain popularity through your ability to please others. Sudden romantic adventures are likely.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't assume you know what your mate wants. A rude awakening may result if you make plans without getting an OK first. Emotional turmoil will lead to major disputes.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get together with close friends. The insights you gain can be applied to your personal life. The commitment you want is just around the corner.

Birthday Baby: You're very determined and slightly stubborn, but definitely a go-getter. When you make your mind up, nothing will stop you. You will need to be busy and desire to win.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11	12	13
14				■	15				■	16				
17				■	18				■	19				
20				21					22					
■	■	■	23				■	■	24			■	■	■
25	26	27				■	28	29				30	31	32
33					■	34				■	■	35		
36					37					38	39			
40			■	■	41				■	42				
43			44	45				■	46					
■	■	■	47			■	■	48				■	■	■
49	50	51				52	53					54	55	56
57					■	58				■	59			
60					■	61				■	62			
63					■	64				■	65			

By Gerald R. Ferguson
Portland, OR
7/25/01

ACROSS
1 New York stadium
5 __ Linda, CA
9 Hawaiian hello
14 McCarthyism letters
15 MBA class
16 Talk of the town?
17 Peak in Thessaly
18 Highlander
19 Quarterback Dilfer
20 Start of a quip
23 At all times
24 Follower of Atilla
25 Ethel of Broadway
28 Coming into view
33 While broadcasting
34 Assert positively
35 Neither fish __ fowl
36 Part 2 of quip
40 Roh __ Wu of Korea
41 Yearn
42 Vinegar or oil bottle
43 Steak cuts
46 Tartan patterns
47 Stupefied state
48 Kinship group
49 End of quip
57 Dodge
58 Pigeonhole
59 Seed protector
60 Happen again
61 Southernmost Great Lake
62 One-billionth: pref.
63 Plummets
64 Facial features
65 Catch

DOWN
1 Demonstrate
2 Pipe down!
3 No sweat
4 World of scholars
5 Reduce
6 Happen
7 Othello, e.g.
8 Pot builder
9 Camelot king
10 Enticing
11 Harbinger
12 __ Kong
13 Liberal or fine follower
21 Egg-producing organ
22 Unit of heat
25 Castles' defenses
26 Zhou __ of China
27 More untested
28 Levels
29 Dole (out)
30 Tedium
31 Observed
32 Jogs
34 Not fer, in Dogpatch
37 Secret agents
38 Dazzling display
39 Teheran populace
44 Out of circulation
45 Property-holders
46 Metal sheets
48 Radioactivity unit
49 Nebbish
50 Above
51 Baylor University city
52 Words of comprehension
53 British Conservative
54 Gulf of the Mediterranean
55 Santa Maria's sister ship
56 Work hard

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

R	A	C	E	D	■	B	R	A	S	S	■	C	A	B
U	V	U	L	A	■	L	A	N	A	I	■	A	D	O
B	E	L	L	Y	B	U	T	T	O	N	■	T	O	R
■	■	■	■	T	R	E	E	■	■	N	O	T	R	E
P	O	M	P	O	U	S	■	B	Y	E	B	Y	E	S
A	N	O	I	N	T	■	C	L	E	R	I	C	■	■
D	E	L	L	A	■	S	E	A	L	S	■	O	R	R
R	A	L	E	■	C	H	A	M	P	■	F	R	A	U
E	L	Y	■	C	H	A	S	E	■	B	A	N	D	S
■	■	C	O	H	E	R	E	■	D	E	C	E	I	T
I	D	O	L	I	Z	E	■	D	E	S	T	R	O	Y
M	E	D	E	A	■	■	A	O	N	E	■	■	■	■
A	N	D	■	S	I	L	L	Y	S	E	A	S	O	N
G	I	L	■	M	O	O	S	E	■	C	L	E	A	T
E	S	E	■	A	N	T	O	N	■	H	E	A	T	H

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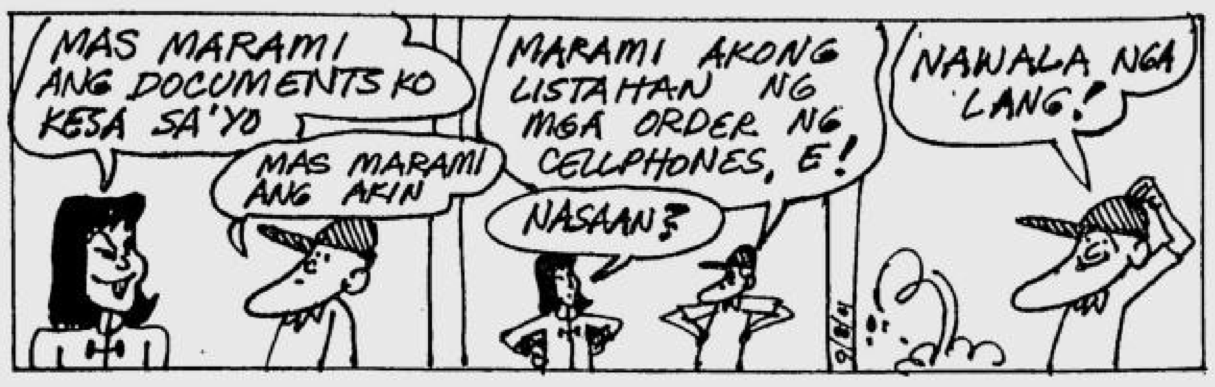
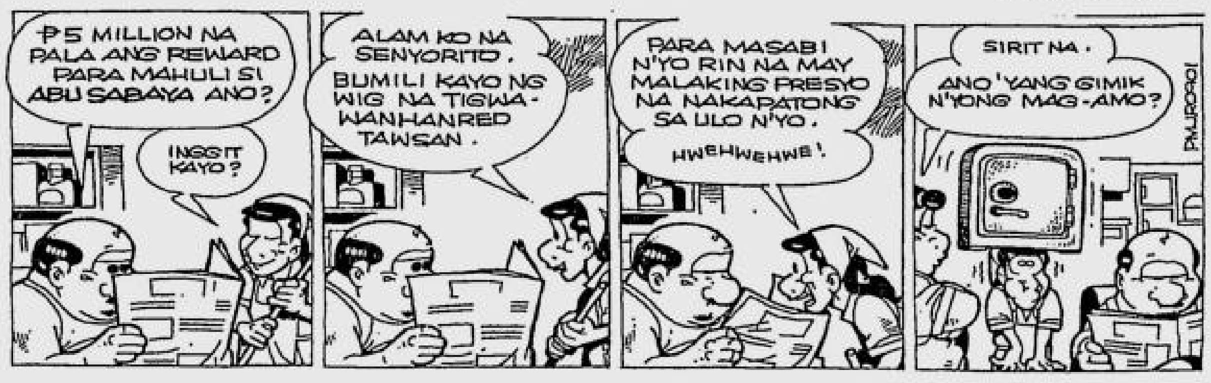
7/25/01

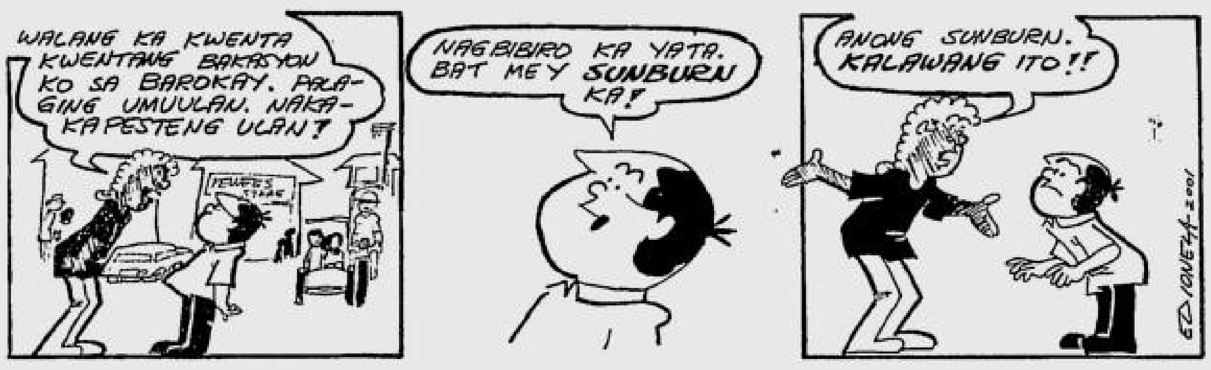
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


MAS MARAMI ANG DOCUMENTS KO KESA SA'YO
MAS MARAMI ANG AKIN
MARAMI AKONG LISTAHAN NG MGA ORDER NG CELLPHONES, E!
NASAAN?
9/8/01
NAWALA NGA LANG!

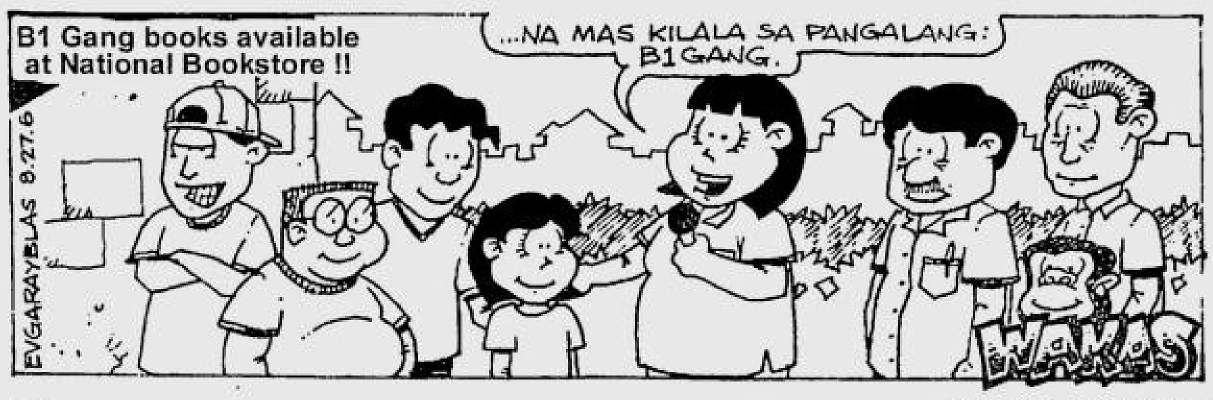
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


₱5 MILLION NA PALA ANG REWARD PARA MAHULI SI ABU SABAYA ANO?
INGGIT KAYO?
ALAM KO NA SENYORITO. BUMILI KAYO NG WIG NA TIGWA-WANHANRED TAWSAN.
PARA MASABI N'YO RIN NA MAY MALAKING PRESYO NA NAKAPATONG SA ULO N'YO.
HWEHWEHWE!
SIRIT NA.
ANO 'YANG GIMIK N'YONG MAG-AMO?
PMJUNIOR

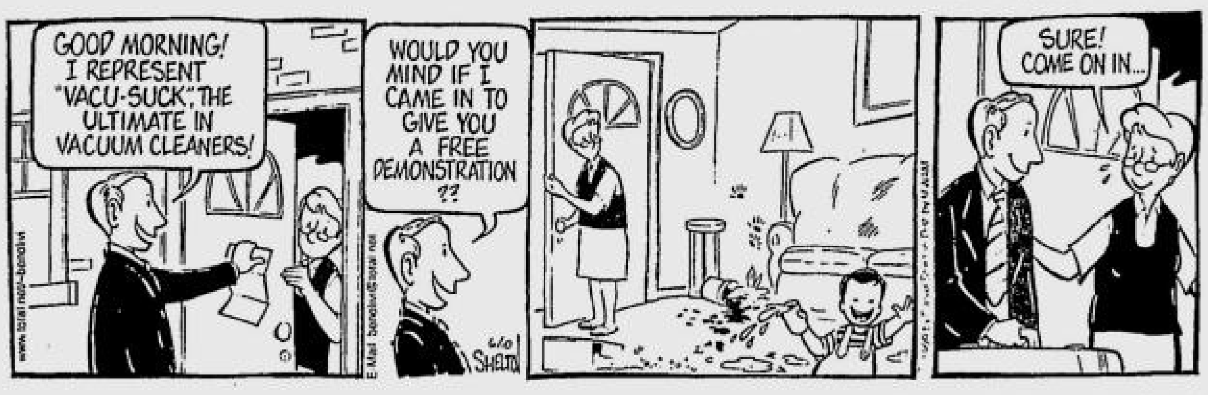
SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


WALANG KA KWENTA KWENTANG BAKASYON KO SA BAROKAY. PALAGING UMUULAN. NAKAKAPESTENG ULAN!
NAGBIBIRO KA YATA. BAT MEY SUNBURN KA!
ANONG SUNBURN. KALAWANG ITO!!
ED IONELA 2001

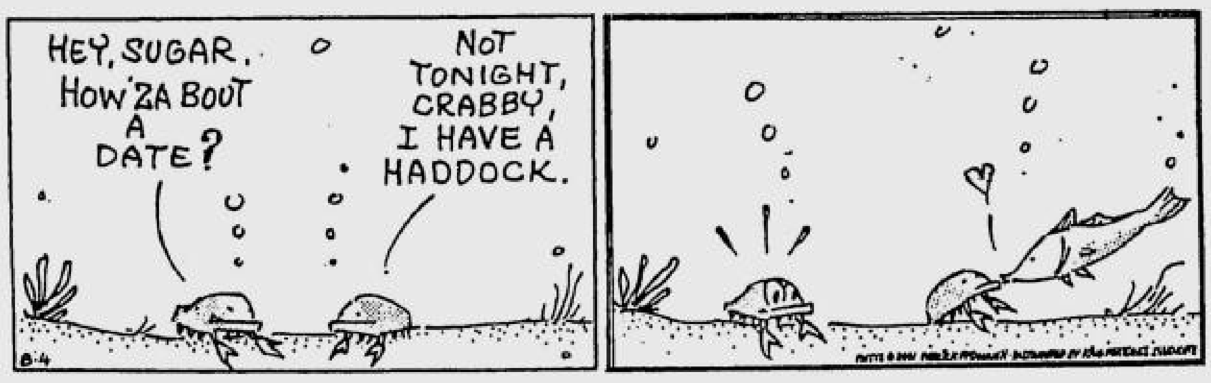
B1 GANG
BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


B1 Gang books available at National Bookstore !!
...NA MAS KILALA SA PANGALANG: B1GANG.
EVGARAYBLAS 8.27.6
WAKAS

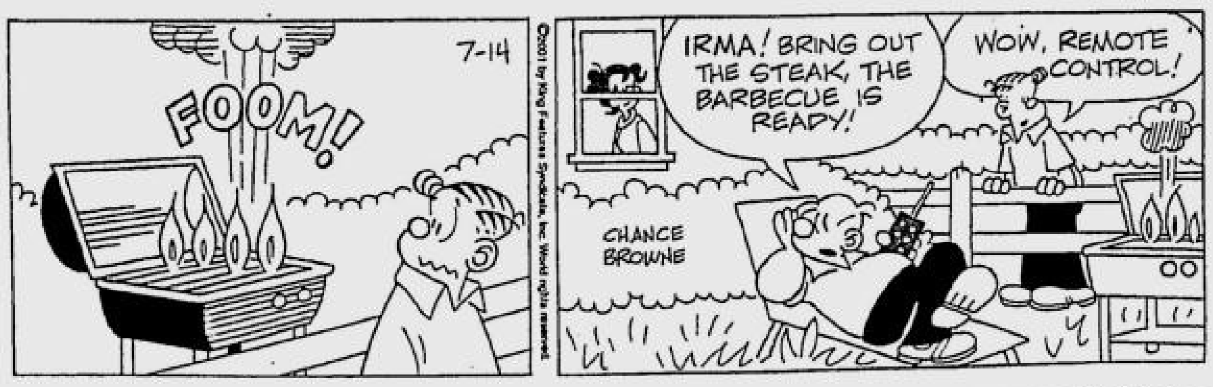
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


GOOD MORNING! I REPRESENT "VACU-SUCK", THE ULTIMATE IN VACUUM CLEANERS!
WOULD YOU MIND IF I CAME IN TO GIVE YOU A FREE DEMONSTRATION??
SURE! COME ON IN...
SHELTON

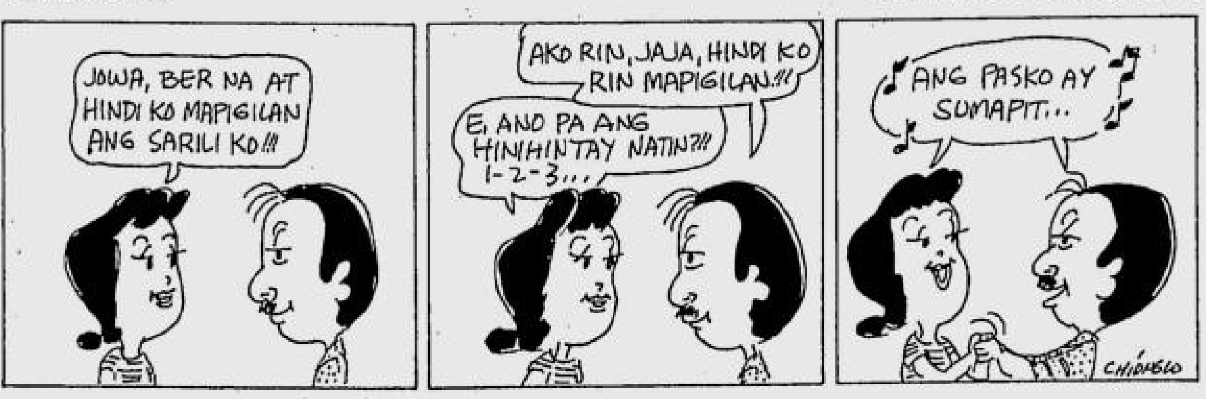
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HEY, SUGAR. HOW'ZA BOUT A DATE?
NOT TONIGHT, CRABBY, I HAVE A HADDOCK.
8-4

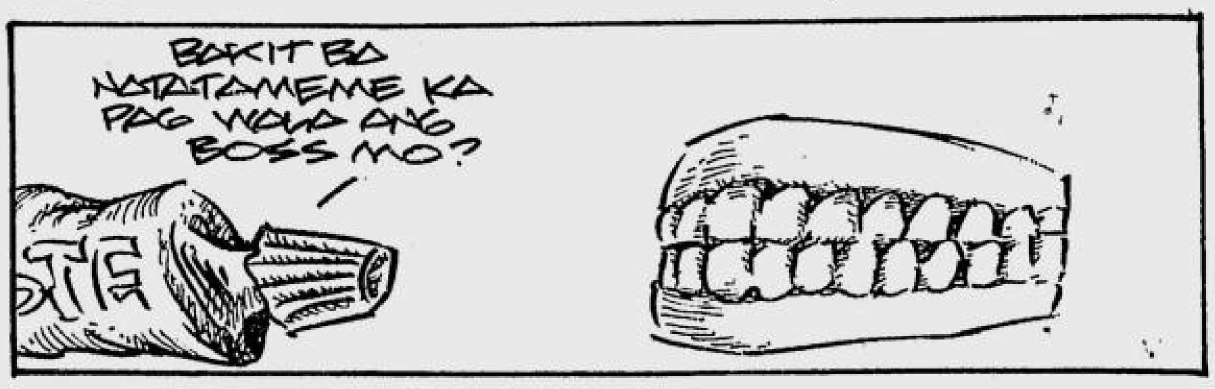
HI AND LOIS
BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


7-14
FOOM!
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
IRMA! BRING OUT THE STEAK, THE BARBECUE IS READY!
WOW, REMOTE CONTROL!
CHANCE BROWNE

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, BER NA AT HINDI KO MAPIGILAN ANG SARILI KO!!!
AKO RIN, JAJA, HINDI KO RIN MAPIGILAN!!!
E, ANO PA ANG HINIHINTAY NATIN?!! 1-2-3...
ANG PASKO AY SUMAPIT...
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT BA NATATAMEME KA PAG WALA ANG BOSS MO?

Dingdong Avanzado's bar tour starts Sept. 15

MONTAGE

DINGDONG Avanzado returns to the concert scene with a bar tour series "Dingdong: Up Close" that kicks off on Sept. 15 at Nth Degree.

Other shows will be mounted at the Hard Rock Cafe on Sept. 18, O Two Bistro Bar N' Grill on Sept. 21, Friends on Sept. 27, Virgin Cafe on Oct. 2, Ratsky's on Oct. 9 and Captain's Bar on Oct. 16.

Vicor's sing-along hits

Vicor Corporation has just released Vol. 4 of the "X-Large OPM Hits Sing-Along X-Large Collection" in video CD. The collection includes many of today's hits bannered by the popular song "Pagdating ng Panahon" as popularized by Aiza Seguerra.

Aside from Aiza's hit, the CD also includes Regine Velasquez's "Pangako Ikaw Lamang" and "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," Freestyle and Pops Fernandez's "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," and Jerome Abalos' "Baka Mayroong Iba."

'Sex and the City' on RPN-9

The HBO hit series "Sex and the City" premiered last Monday on RPN-9 at 11 p.m.

It stars Sarah Jessica Parker, as Carrie who writes a column about sex; Kim Cattrall as Samantha, a PR executive who's pretty much done it all on the dating scene; Kristin Davis as Charlotte, who still believes love conquers all, and Cynthia Nixon as Miranda, a cynical corporate lawyer.

Lani Misalucha at the Big Dome tonight

Lani Misalucha performs tonight at the Araneta Coliseum in "Lani Misalucha: The Crossover Live Tour," her first major solo concert.

Supported by special guests Martin Nievera, Side A's Joey Generoso and Malik, Lani will be singing some of the numbers from her Crossover concert at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City.

Call 911-5555 or 844-2947.

Michelle Yeoh in costume drama

See Michelle Yeoh in her first costume drama "Butterfly Sword" showing on Star Mandarin Movies on Sept. 19 at 9 p.m. During the Ming Dynasty, Eunuch Tso and Ko Lotai embark on a mission to expose a conspiracy but it is only at the end of their pursuit that the real challenge begins.

The silent invasion

Invisible extraterrestrials attack the earth in the remake of the cult sci-fi flick "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" airing Sept. 13 at 11:15 p.m. on Star Movies at 11:15 p.m. with replays on Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. and Sept. 26 at 3:45 p.m. As microorganisms take over the human bodies, obliterating all traces of personality and individuality, health inspector Matthew Benell (Sutherland) stands virtually alone in the war against the terrible and silent menace.

The film features Donald Sutherland, Brooke Adams and Jeff Goldhlum.

'The Insider' on Star Movies

On Sept. 23 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, Russell Crowe plays a top scientist who goes public with devastating information on the tobacco industry in "The Insider.". Lowell Bergman, an investigative reporter played by Al Pacino, tapes Wigand's interview for CBS' "Sixty Minutes. The two men discover that telling the truth can sometimes be a real battle.

Resurrecting the dead

Can genetic scientists use cloning techniques to bring the dead back to life? Take an exciting journey with the gene hunters as they examine the controversy surrounding cloning on National Geographic Channel's "Gene Hunters." This week's episode on Sept. 10 is "Gene Ark."

US scientist Betty Dressen's dedication to resurrect the dead has led her to a unique solution: a "frozen zoo" composed of frozen genetic material from endangered species. She aims to utilize this method to ensure the future of mammal species alive today, but is she playing God?

Vanessa Mae live

Watch the performance of international violinist Vanessa Mae in a live concert in Taiwan on Sept. 16 with a replay on Sept. 20 on Star World..

Vanessa Mae has long been known for infusing classical music with pop panache. This time, the violinist mixes a dash of electric dance flavor in tunes from her new album "Subject to Change." (*Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam*)

PARKER. Plays a sex columnist.

A second round of golf at the Riviera

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

AS general manager of what is considered one of the top three golf links in the Philippines, John Blanch has more than playing a few rounds of golf on his mind. To begin with, there are two courses, totaling 140 hectares at The Riviera Golf and Country Club In Silang, Cavite. Both are designed by top international pros: Fred Couples and Bernard Langer.

Wide fairways

According to John, "The Couples course is typically American, with wide fairways and large greens. The Langer course is European, rugged with tight fairways, and requires pinpoint accuracy."

The 1998 Philippine Open was played on the Couples course, and the 2000 on the Langer course.

John finished his initial four-year stint and recently signed another contract. He obviously likes it here, and the courses, too. What sets them apart from the rest?

"The advantage of The Riviera is that it is an all-weather course. There is natural drainage, with the water running off into the ravines. Players don't have to tramp in the mud. And just look at the weather we're having!"

The weather was downcast the day I came to visit, raining on and off. But golfers, foreign and local, drove in one after the other, gradually filling up the Golf Clubhouse parking lot. "Underneath these grounds are six inches of sand which act like a sponge, draining the courses," John added.

"Then there's the climate. We are 1,200 feet above sea level so there is less humidity; instead, there is always a gentle breeze. Indeed, The Riviera is a championship course in more ways than one," John proudly counts his pluses. "Even the Philippine Daily Inquirer plays here. The PDI holds a Club of the Year Award, and also placed second in 1999 and third in 2000."

And then there's nature. It embraces the entire 280 hectares with its planned residential area, a country club and the golf course. The other top golf links in the country are hemmed in by roads and urban developments, including factories.

The Golf Clubhouse has an experienced Filipino executive chef, Bert Famadico. A Singaporean food consultant was also hired recently. Of course, the food is definitely five-star!

Here's a tip: Visit Hole 17, a showcase site looking down on the fairways and a steep ravine. There is also Par 3 with its nine holes, an Executive course, a mini-Clubhouse and the Golf Clubhouse. A Tee Pavilion stands beside the Golf Club and Driving Range.

For more information on the Riviera, (the flagship of AFP-RSBS Investments), call 807-7076 and 807-7061 or e-mail johnrgcc@info.com.ph.

Weekend photography lecture series

I am holding a three-weekend lecture series at P2,500 per weekend with snacks, lunch and dinner (Sundays only) starting Sept. 8 & 9, Portraiture Photography; Sept. 15 & 16, Glamour Cover & Fashion Photography; and Sept. 22 & 23, Product and Food Photography at the Garden House, No. 1 Escolastica st.corner Roxas blvd., Pasay City. Saturday sessions will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Lectures in the morning end with an open forum and lighting demonstrations are in the afternoons.

Sundays, participants may be required to shoot in the mornings, and rush an 8 x 10 color print for critique in the afternoon sessions.

Interested parties may enroll at Mandy's studio at 1935 Dominga st. near corner Sen. Gil Puyat ave., Pasay City or call telephone numbers 522-1901 and 522-1905 or e-mail: mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph

JOHN Blanch with his executive staff at The Riviera. (L-R) Rizaldy A. Legaspi, Ferdie Castro, Malou Arriola, Kobak Tolentino, Henry P. Arabelo, Amor Abalahin, Eric Gozo, Eppie Castillo, and Frank Sanchez.

THE GOLF Clubhouse's executive chef, Bert Famadico.

A new love team is born

(From page F1)

They note that the two young stars have more that the required number of kissing scenes in their film, and they seem to be genuinely enjoying themselves while they're, uh, osculating.

Partly for this reason, the film is reported to be a big hit, one of the few blockbusters that the local movie industry has chalked up thus far this year.

Other plus factors include the fact that both Juday and Piolo work their butts off in this production. Since it's a movie about young boxers, both young stars had to train a lot and do many very physical scenes, and viewers have shown their appreciation for this extra effort by making the movie a hit.

Distinct possibility

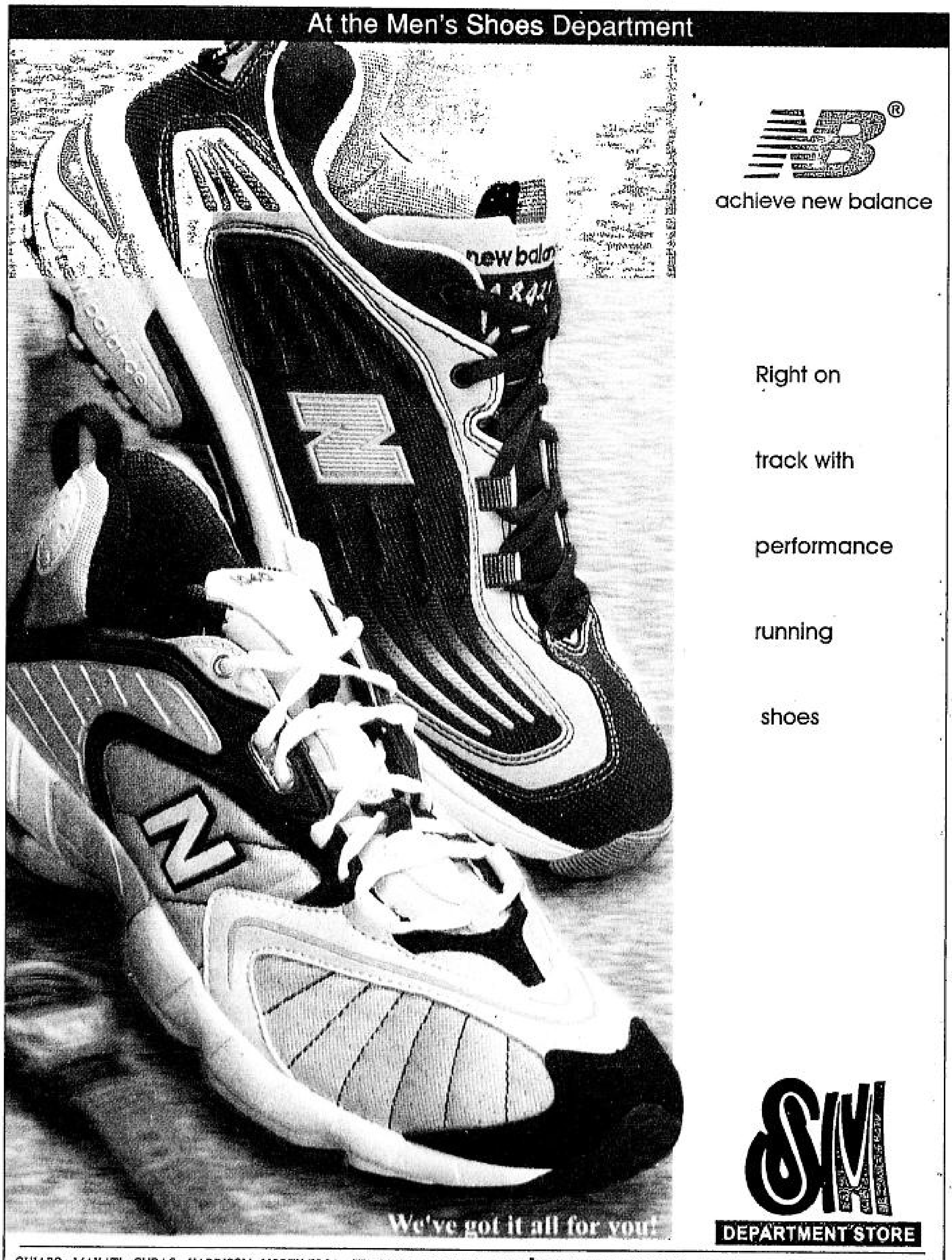
Now that "Bakit Di Totohanin" is a success, there's the distinct possibility that Juday may have found a new love team partner in Piolo. She will continue to co-star with other actors, but it's likely that she'll soon be paired anew with Piolo—and, if *that* movie clicks, their new love team could be here to stay.

Sure, Juday is already 23 years old, but local movies have had many young-adult love teams, so the Juday-Piolo tandem won't look *too* long in the tooth.

Not quite incidentally, this is even better news for Piolo who, unlike Juday, still has to consolidate his hold on stardom. No doubt, the success of his film with Juday has boosted his stellar career in a major way, and he's now *the* new young actor to beat, along with Diether Ocampo (who will soon get *his* big boost when his film with Rosanna Roces, "La Vida Rosa," is shown).

Major stardom

Of course, some cynics are hinting that Piolo has orchestrated his "reel and real" romance with Juday for his own advantage, but most people don't believe this because Piolo is talented in his own right and would have eventually ascended to major stardom on his own, without having to resort to a fake romance with a major, young female star.



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NB achieve new balance
Right on track with performance running shoes
SM We've got it all for you! DEPARTMENT STORE
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU

at the pre-teens wear department
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SM DEPARTMENT STORE We've got it all for you!
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Heady nights with Ishmael at Grey November

THE AUTHOR (right) with Ishmael Bernal (third from left), singer Bobby Gonzales (second from left) and other Grey November habitues in 1968.

BY BEHN CERVANTES

"SEE you next Wednesday night!!" 'Yeah, see you!" Those parting shots would be exchanged by dozens of satisfied customers emerging from a little door that opened out to the street. Guitar music, loud singing and laughter emanated from the smoke-filled café on Mabini st. The Greenwich Village-type cafe had become the center of nightly activity in the Malate area towards the end of the '60s.

I was introduced to its beatnik *cum* hippie charms in 1967 soon after I arrived from the States. The very "in" café was popularly called Grey November although its owner had really poetically christened it 'When It Is a Grey November in Your Soul."

Meeting place

For many a Manila artist, artist-to-be, or lover of the arts and/or artists, the place was a fun meeting place. The lengthy and "angstsy" name best explained their restless state during the flowering of the hippie years. The café was opened at the right place at the right time for many a restless being was searching for kindred souls.

The world was in a tizzy. There was that blasted war in Vietnam that divided the troubled populace of the most powerful nation in the world. The flower children in America and the hippies in Europe were advocating and practicing love, not war. Sexual liberation was now accepted and practiced by young, eager and formerly conservative Romeos and Juliets.

Colorful presence

Gay pride became another strident battlecry that established a colorful presence, after being hidden in a dark and suffocating closet.

Amidst many-layered social problems and inevitable conflict with the Establishment, there was that whiff of fresh air from the many windows forced open by the concerted efforts of intellectuals and young advocates of truth, justice and liberty for all, especially the oppressed.

There was an awakening as well as consciousness of the brotherhood of man and the universal responsibility to all. After all, not too long before, the African Americans had been emancipated. There was the struggling Third World confronting the powerful military, political and economic forces of Imperialism.

The extended Vietnam War gave Imperialism a despicable face since it pitted a small nation against the United States. It was the powerful imperialist Uncle Sam bullying a former French colony that had already lost its hold on this tiny Southeast Asian nation. It was the East versus the West, the former united by similar colonial traumas. It was the little Asian David throwing hurling his stones against the technologically advantaged Goliath. Naturally, the young and restless the world over sided with the underdog. Times, they were a-changing.

The world had been staid and passive too long. After the Pacific War, humankind went too far into the realm of romance, hoping to forget those awful years where many a young person had lost love, innocence and security. It had dwelt in self-love too long.

Radical change

It was time for radical change. We had rebels like Brando and Dean, thought-provoking writers like Sartre and Camus, as well as rock 'n' roll. They broke down barriers, forced us to look at the world and ourselves in a new light. What we saw was not necessarily flattering.

Sandra Dee and Troy Donahue had lost their youthful charms. The world wanted to turn itself around and devour life according to the enlarging perimeters that came with constant discoveries of self-empowerment. The poetry of the era, the lyrics of songs, had heart, soul and conscience.

The restless souls wanted to find a watering hole, to share their dreams, pains and loves with their own kind. A café was the perfect answer to that need, especially since such an establishment brought to mind the West Bank of Paris, the songs of the pained Edith Piaf, artistic as well as intellectual pursuits.

Such a café was soon opened. It was conceived to answer the needs of Manila's artists and trendy society. The owner of the simple but ambience-filled watering hole *aka* café on Mabini st. was Ishmael Bernal, a Literature graduate from UP.

He was also interested in languages and had returned only four years before from France, where he mastered the language of Moliere. He had a network of friends who came to patronize his café. He would have an available guitar for anyone who was interested in singing Peter, Paul and Mary songs.

Easy on the pocket

Bob Dylan's songs were even more respected but just everyone joined in when anyone rendered a Joan Baez song. Beer cost only a peso. Bernie's *Kapampangan* but Spanish-speaking mother cooked fine dishes that were tasty—and, above all, easy on the pocket.

Yes, good times were affordable then in the '60s. For a mere P10, you could have a meal and four beers! If only we could turn back the hands of time!

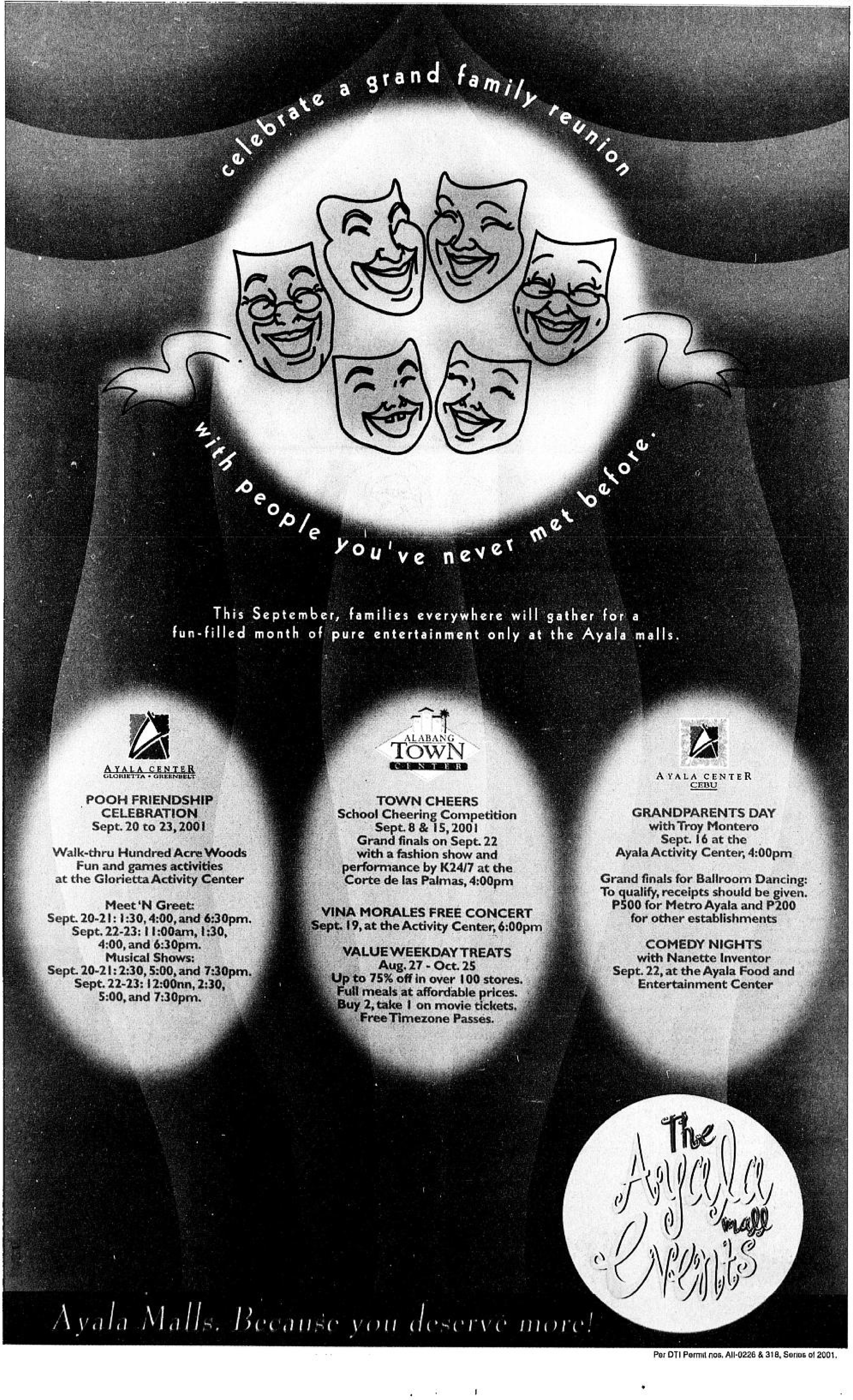
Bernie, or Ishma as friends were wont to call him, was a good businessman. He was a hands-on entrepreneur who socialized with one and all. Thus, he created a faithful clientele who came to have a good time and meet their own kind.

If not, he would wait outside the door of When It Is a Grey November in Your Soul, and waylay possible customers to try out his place! Ishma was one determined salesperson.

Manila's literati and would-be artists went there regularly. Thus, it became a "droppable" place to be seen in, so soon enough its long name became a more familial "Grey." When anyone said "See you at Grey," you knew it meant that café on Mabini st.

Names like Nick Joaquin, Adrian Cristobal, Jose Joya and Tita Muñoz dropped by to feel the pulse of the young artists. Expats, diplomats, movie stars, society columnists and socialites like Elvira Manahan and Chona Kasten would go "slumming" there to imbibe youthful exuberance with a hippie touch.

Groupies went there to be with the up-and-coming artists of the metropolis who caroused there night after night. *(To be concluded)*



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Meet 'N Greet:
Sept. 20-21: 1:30, 4:00, and 6:30pm.
Sept. 22-23: 11:00am, 1:30, 4:00, and 6:30pm.
Musical Shows:
Sept. 20-21: 2:30, 5:00, and 7:30pm.
Sept. 22-23: 12:00nn, 2:30, 5:00, and 7:30pm.

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

TOWN CHEERS
School Cheering Competition
Sept. 8 & 15, 2001
Grand finals on Sept. 22
with a fashion show and
performance by K24/7 at the
Corte de las Palmas, 4:00pm

VINA MORALES FREE CONCERT
Sept. 19, at the Activity Center, 6:00pm

VALUE WEEKDAY TREATS
Aug. 27 - Oct. 25
Up to 75% off in over 100 stores.
Full meals at affordable prices.
Buy 2, take 1 on movie tickets.
Free Timezone Passes.

AYALA CENTER
CEBU

GRANDPARENTS DAY
with Troy Montero
Sept. 16 at the
Ayala Activity Center, 4:00pm

Grand finals for Ballroom Dancing:
To qualify, receipts should be given.
P500 for Metro Ayala and P200
for other establishments

COMEDY NIGHTS
with Nanette Inventor
Sept. 22, at the Ayala Food and
Entertainment Center

The Ayala mall Events

Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more!

Per DTI Permit nos. AII-0226 & 318, Series of 2001.

'Jeepers Creepers' grabs US box office crown

BY DEAN GOODMAN

LOS ANGELES—The North American summer moviegoing season wrapped on a scary note as new teen slasher "Jeepers Creepers" grabbed the crown during the quiet Labor Day holiday weekend, according to estimates issued on Monday.

Hellish creature

"Jeepers Creepers," about a brother and sister's run-in with a hellish creature on a country road, grossed about $15.8 million for the four-day weekend, a traditionally low-key movie period when Americans are more focused on savoring the last days of summer.

The film nonetheless set a new record for a Labor Day opener, surpassing the $9.8 million tally of "The Crow: City Of Angels" in 1996.

The Victor Salva-directed film appealed as "a good, old-fashioned monster movie," said Robert Levin, president of marketing and distribution for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc., which released "Jeepers Creepers" through its United Artists arthouse banner.

Very profitable release

About half the audience for the R-rated film was under 21, and the gender mix was even. The film marks the first venture between United Artists and MGM board member Francis Ford Coppola's American Zoetrope banner, which produced "Jeepers Creepers" for about $10 million. UA paid about $2.5 million for North American rights, meaning that it will be a very profitable release, said Levin.

After three weeks at the top, "American Pie 2" (Universal) slipped to No. 3 with $11.7 million, narrowly behind "Rush Hour 2" (New Line) with $11.8 million. "American Pie 2" has grossed $125.6 million after 25 days, while the "Rush Hour" sequel has pulled in $199 million after 32 days. Universal Pictures is a unit of Vivendi Universal, and New Line Cinema is a unit of AOL Time Warner Inc.

The only other new entry in the top 10 was "O," a controversial high-school thriller based on Shakespeare's "Othello." The R-rated tragedy debuted at No. 7 with $6.9 million, although its 1,434 theater count was less than half the number of outlets playing the top three.

Campus slayings

The critically acclaimed film, which culminates in a series of brutal campus slayings, was shot in early 1999 but shelved in the wake of the Columbine High School massacre in April of that year. The film's backer, Walt Disney Co.-owned Dimension Films, got cold feet and eventually sold North American rights to Canadian film company, Lions Gate Entertainment for undisclosed terms.

"It's a really good thriller from some amazing source material," said Lions Gate Films president Tom Ortenberg, adding that he was "very happy" with the bow.

Half the film's audience was aged over 25, auguring for a solid performance in coming weeks as word-of-mouth spreads among mature moviegoers, a demographic that does not normally rush a movie in its first weekend. "O" stars Josh Hartnett, Julia Stiles and Mekhi Phifer. It was directed by Tim Blake Nelson, and cost about $4 million to make, Ortenberg said.

Thriller

Rounding out the top five were the Nicole Kidman thriller "The Others" (Dimension) with $10 million at No. 4, and the ensemble road comedy "Rat Race" (Paramount) with $9.2 million at No. 5, both unchanged in rank from last week. Their respective totals are $59.8 million after 25 days and $37.8 million after 18 days. Paramount Pictures is a unit of Viacom Inc. *Reuters*

Sana dumami
pa ang gaya
niya !

Junior
INQUIRER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2001 ◆ 12 PAGES ◆ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 48

WWW.INQ7.NET

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Brazil—The Last Explorer

As the last pioneer writes his memoirs, Brazil's Indians face new threat

HE'S FOUGHT off a stroke and at least 287 attacks of malaria, but even at 87, the last of Brazil's great explorers who opened up the country's vast, tropical interior in the 1940s and became a protector of its Indian tribes can't seem to sit still.

"I'm writing my memoirs," announces Orlando Villas Boas, brandishing a sheaf of typewritten papers grabbed from a table in the middle of his study, so crammed with artifacts, memorabilia and old black-and-white photos that it looks like Indiana Jones' attic.

For Brazil's Indians, Villas Boas' autobiography will be just that—memories.

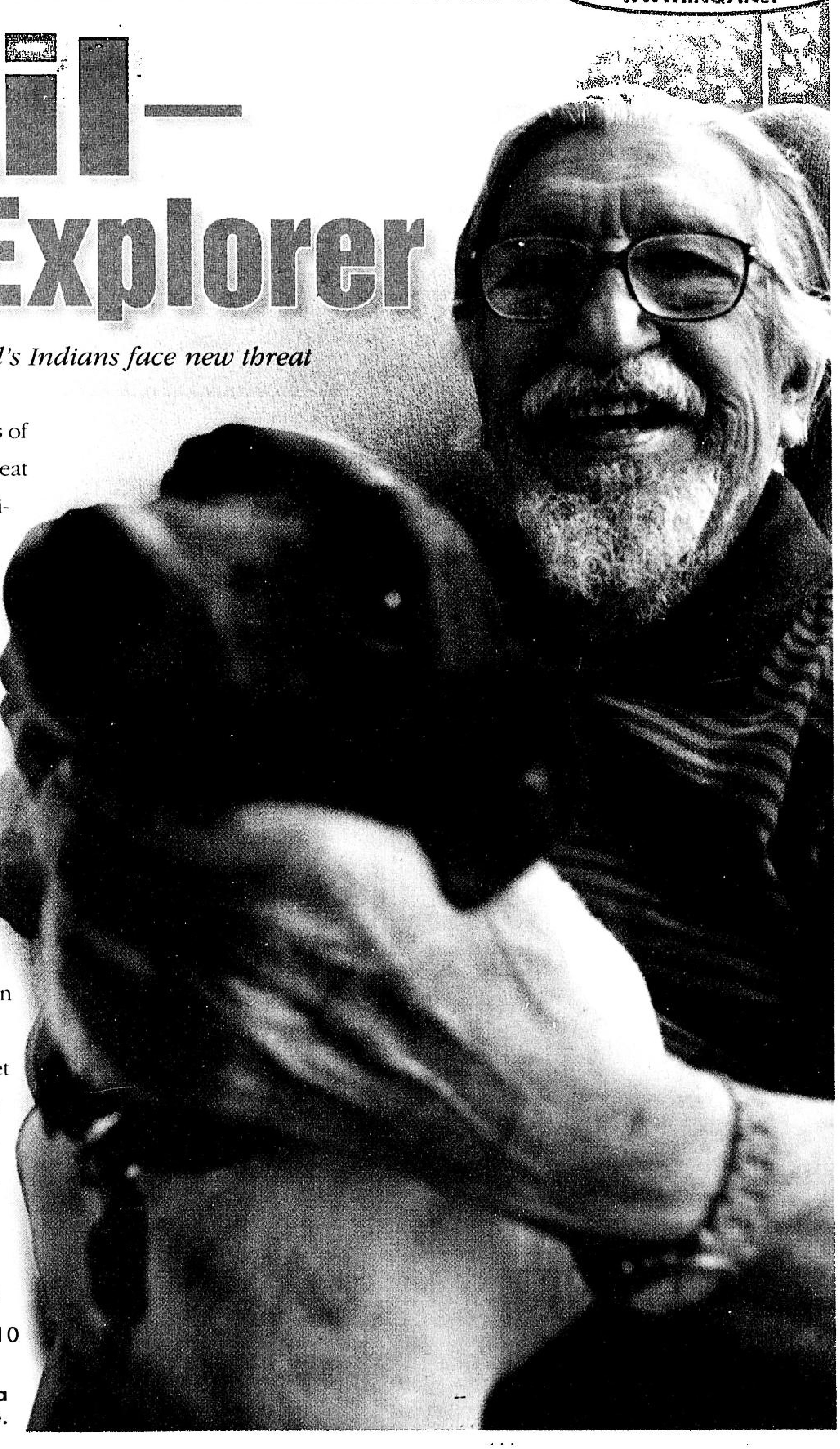
When the Portuguese first landed in Brazil in 1500, the huge territory was populated by an estimated 5 million to 7 million Indians. Today there are only about 300,000, mostly living in the depths of the Amazon rain forest.

And although the Brazilian government recently set aside nearly 2 million for 14 new reservations, Brazil's Indians are facing a new, possibly final threat: a $40-billion plan to build roads, canals, dams and other infrastructure of the modern world in the rain forest.

Survivor

Villas Boas is the last surviving brother of three who

Brazil/p.10

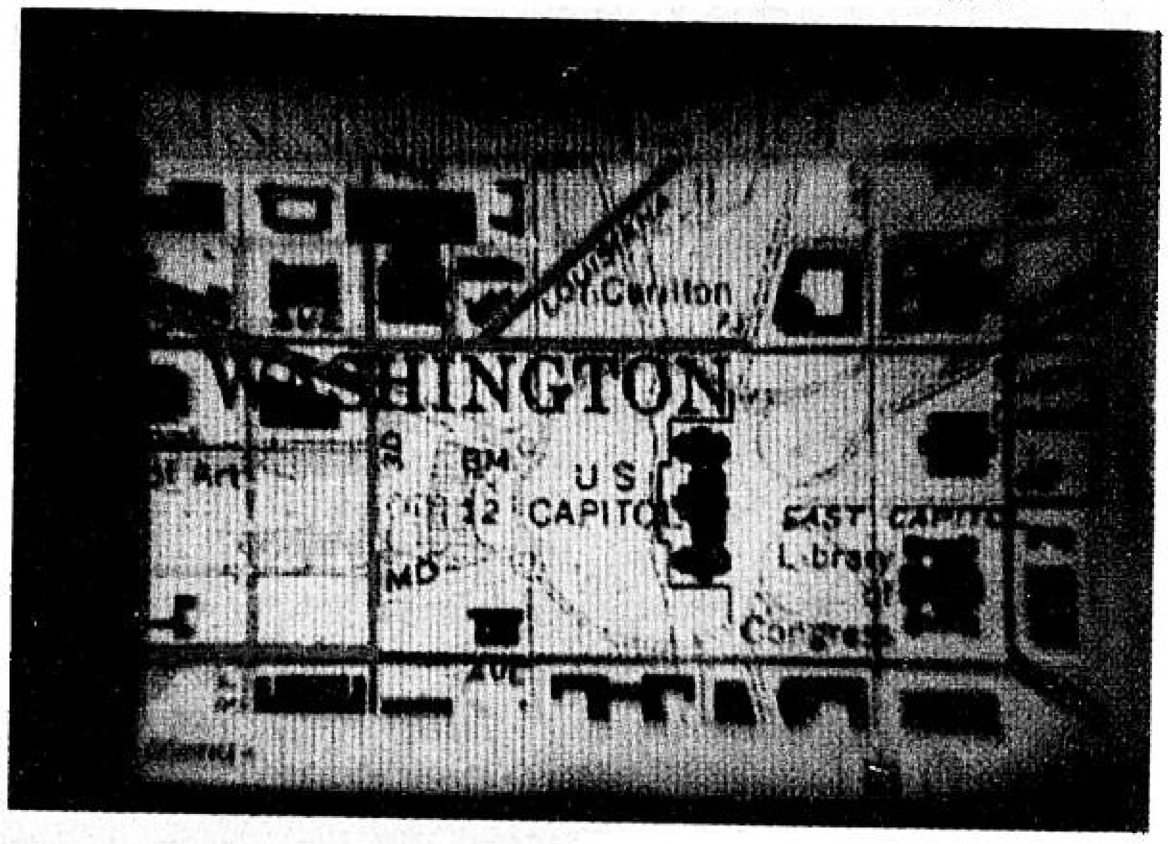


BRAZILIAN INDIANA JONES. Boas gives his pet dog a good neck scratch as he relaxes at home.

WORLD SCOPE

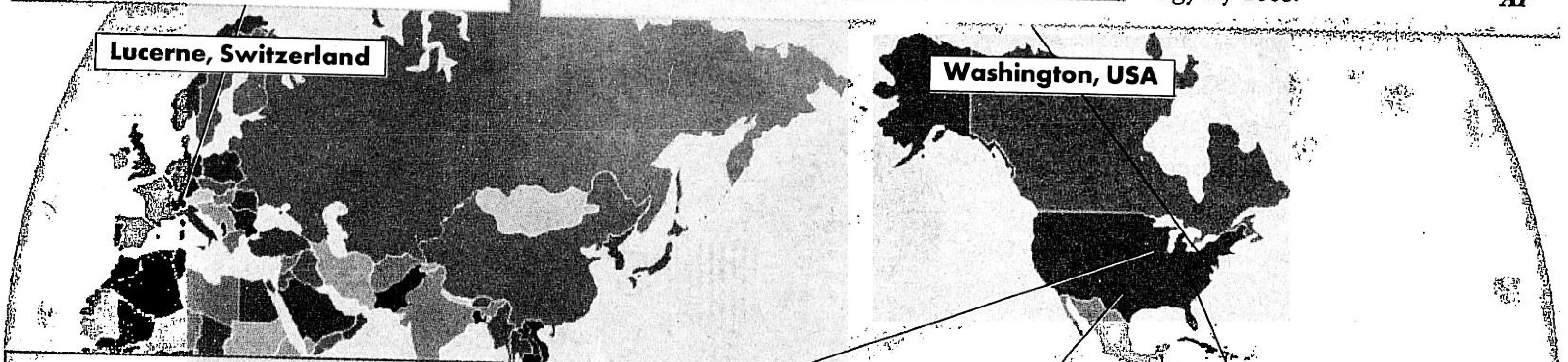
But where are the cows?

READY, set, mooo! A woman in a traditional alpine costume (left) walks past the horns of a group of Alphorn players awaiting the start of the much-awaited annual alphorn festival. A hundred alphorn players from all over Switzerland joined the jamming. More than 2,000 years ago, alphorns were used to calm dairy cows at milk time. It was also the twilight signal for flocks of sheep to settle in for the night as shepherds exchanged rustic tunes. ***AP***



Wearable Computers

A DISPLAY mounted on an American soldier's helmet shows where he is and a map of the vicinity. The computer program, called Land Warrior, uses US satellites to show a person's whereabouts and video images. The US Army has spent $400 million during the past five years developing the program and plans to outfit all US soldiers with computer technology by 2008. ***AP***



Gross, but life-saving

DR. DAVID Cronin of the University of Chicago, shows how blood is fed into a kidney that is attached to warm blood-based preservation machine. Cronin and a team of researchers at the University of Chicago Hospitals have announced that for the first time they had attached a human kidney to a machine that simulates a warm body to keep the organ alive. It is a discovery that researcher Cronin said could revolutionize organ transplantation because some organs that are questionable for transplantation could one day be tested on the machine and then may be used. ***AP***

Cooling off

RONNIE Plucker, 11, kisses the head of Coco, his Boxer puppy while playing in the Colorado River, in Yuma, Arizona. Plucker, along with Coco, family and friends went to the river to cool off from the heat in the desert state. ***AP***

Record-breaking dive

SKYDIVERS form a 33-way formation to break a New England Women's Skydiving Record in Pepperell, Massachusetts. The record formation held for almost five seconds breaks the 1995 record of a 29-way formation. ***AP***

Crash and Conquer

Check out the secret origins of the popular pinoy manga Culture Crash

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

CRASH LANDING. It's a typical wacky day at work for (from left) Memer, Jio, Ilog and Jescie.

ROGER CARPIO

A SMALL sign on the door of the Culture Crash office says, "Beware of Dog." Inside the cozy little room, though, we didn't see a dog, but Ilog. As in Taga-Ilog, a.k.a., well. . .Taga-Ilog, the elusive writer and artist of Culture Crash's Pasig storyline. Allowing us to see him without his trademark pail, he invited us in and offered us a seat.

"The others will be here soon," he said, smiling. Wow, we thought, Taga-Ilog smiles!

By now, collectors of the "pinoy manga" Culture Crash, or CC, know the magazine's four creators by their superhero alter-egos. Publisher, editor and "One Day Isang Diwa" author Jescie James Palabay is the fist-pounding Da Bhoss. Futuristic fighter J.I.O. is really just Jio or Jerard Dominic Irving Beltran in real life. He's the creator of the high-tech war series "Solstice Butterfly." The fantastic world of Memeria, the any-thing-goes setting of "Cat's Trail," owes its existence to Elmer Damaso. Memer is CC's resident blue-pencil-wielding ninja, I.Q. 40, whose sidekick is a wide-eyed tarsier named Memer II. Then, there's brooding Taga-Ilog who reveals his name to no one.

To fans, these 20-plus-year-old guys are known as the CCCom Fighters. To the rest of the world, they look like a bunch of friends having waaaaay too much fun.

"Shocking" beginnings!

Culture Crash first hit the stores about a year ago but if you ask the creators, it took something like 10 years to get there.

"In high school; I loved reading American comics," James begins once the whole gang is assembled, "my whole *barkada* loved comics."

Often, he says, they would kid him, "James, you have a printing press right? Let's make our own comics!"

"Sure," he would reply, "when? Tomorrow? Great!"

"Then after a few years," he says, "I realized it's not such a bad idea."

Jio was a member of this *barkada* and he's the one who got them all interested in the Japanese-style of drawing.

"I used to think I was a ninja in high school," he snickers. It was while researching on ninjas and other things Japanese that Jio stumbled on anime and manga. "I was really impressed!" he enthuses and it influenced his drawings ever since.

After high school, James and Jio lost touch for a while. Then while studying Fine Arts in UP, Jio met Memer. Sort of.

Says Memer, "I was just sketching some characters from (the anime series) "Macross" when Jio looked over my shoulder and exclaimed, *'Uy,* anime y*an a! Mahilig ka sa* anime?'"

Jio, Memer says, then proceeded to rattle off titles of anime series he'd never seen. Finally, Jio told him, "I have some tapes, want to borrow them?"

"I thought he was really weird because he never even asked my name!" Memer laughs.

Somehow, he says, he and Jio managed to properly introduce themselves and after watching Jio's tapes, Memer remembers muttering, "I got to have more..."

Not long after, Jio returned to high school to pick up his yearbook and he met James again. Talk of their own comic book resurfaced and this time they were serious about it. Jio got Memer to sign up as one of the very first artists.

"I already thought of the name Culture Crash then," says James, "and I felt a bit bad when they wanted to call it Culture Shock."

At the time, Jio and the others thought "Shock" would be better since only a few people knew about anime and manga in those days. The mix of Pinoy stories with the Japanese art form, they figured, would be a "culture shock" for many readers.

Enter the Ilog

After graduation, James got his family's go-signal to use their printing press. However, James, Jio and Memer wanted one more artist/writer for their line-up. They found. . .you guessed it. . .Taga-Ilog.

"Here's our favorite story about Ilog," says James, cracking up, "we were driving around Pasig when we saw this guy drawing in a gutter. . .he was good and we told him to come with us!"

"They kidnapped me and brought me here," Ilog grumbles, or pretends to.

Actually, Ilog was a UP fine arts student too. While awfully quiet in the beginning, they admit, Ilog soon fit in their group perfectly.

Even if he did prefer, at least in the magazine, to appear with a pail over his head. "In the first issue, we just had fun with the characters we drew to represent ourselves," says Taga-Ilog. The pail stuck after that.

And the name? "I think (Taga-Ilog) is easier to remember and it's a little patriotic. One of our heroes used it as his pen name," he explains. (JI readers, can you guess who?)

Besides, Ilog adds, "I grew up in Pasig which still gets flooded, *kaya* Taga-Ilog *talaga ako."*

Crash and blaze

By the time they were ready, anime was all over the place, so James finally got his wish and the magazine was called Culture Crash.

Instead of crashing and burning, though, their magazine became a bestseller and the guys found themselves scrambling to put out the next issues as soon as possible. Yet, the guys admit, they're still a bit too slow. "There are only four of us working here," they chorus woefully.

"We didn't realize how big the workload would be," says James, "and we keep experimenting and learning new things every time."

As soon as a new Culture Crash issue comes out, though, it's quickly wiped out by now loyal fans. That's got to mean the CCCom Fighters' hard work is well worth the wait.

now open!
rides!
swimming pool!
fun
and more fun!
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theme park & resort
Butterfly
house & museum
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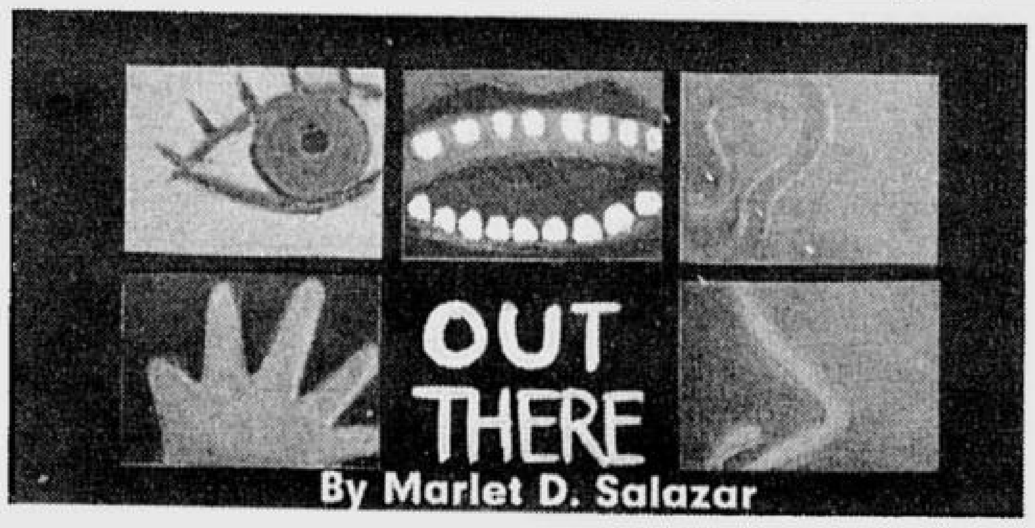
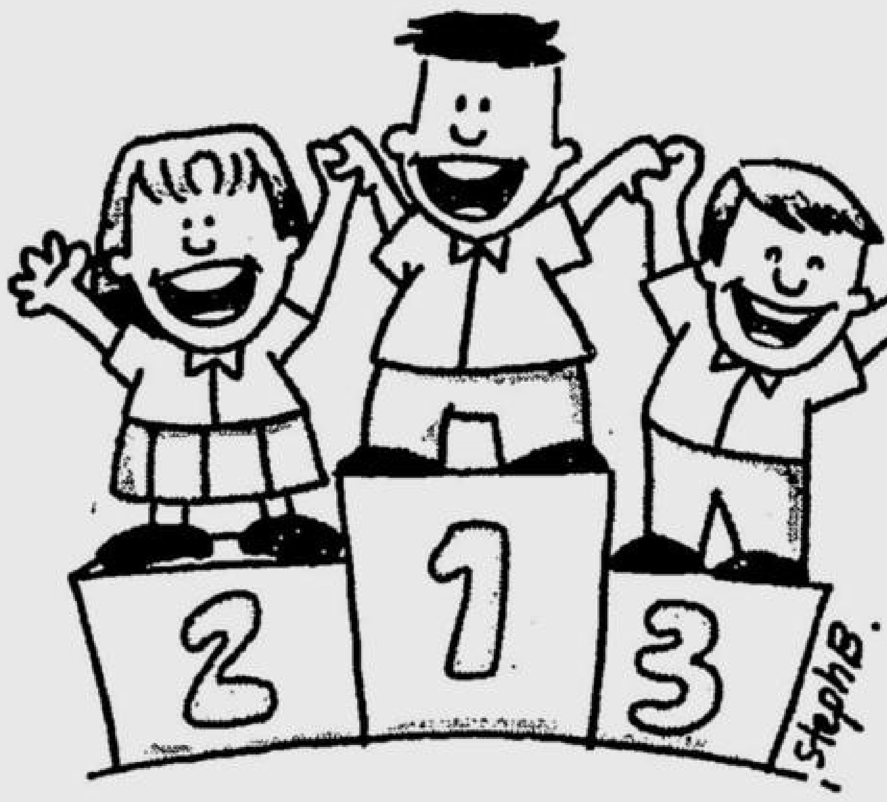


Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Announcement

WINNERS ALL! Congratulations to the winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation Essay Writing Contest! The lucky ones in the high school division are: Ma. Josefa Z. Nantes of UP Integrated School; Iris Anne G. Hamada of St. Louis School Center; Marc Titus D. Cebreros of Philippine Science High School-EVC, Palo, Leyte; and Dano Angelo Tingcongco of Ateneo de Zamboanga.



Concert

CANCERT FOR A CAUSE. Watch a different kind of musical performance on Sept. 9. Some of the best choirs in Metro Manila will be featured. "CANCERT: Kantahan para sa Kabataang may Kanser will be held at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Theater in Camp Aguinaldo at 7 p.m.

Contest

POSTER-MAKING CONTEST. Join the Citizens Disaster Response Center's annual "Apoy, Bagyo, Kalamidad: Dibuhong Pambata" poster-making contest. Design posters that would tell people what to do in case of a disaster. Category A is open to kids ages 7-9 and Category B for ages 10-12 years old. Deadline is on Sept. 20. For more important info, visit any DECS regional and division offices for brochures and posters, CEAP regional offices and schools. Or you can call up 414-5275, 929-9822.

Activities

SCIENCE CLUB. The Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs invites all elementary and high school students to join the science club movement. PSYSC conducts annual interactive workshops, science camps and field trips all over the country that aims to promote public understanding of science, technology and environment. Call them up at 920-9561 and 920-8174 or write to 317 C. David's Place, Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Check out their website www.psysc.org. You can join until Oct. 31.

TRAVELING THEATER. Watch out for the "Ulat Pang-mulat" traveling theater as they visit various urban poor communities in Metro Manila. There will be plays, songs, dances and puppet shows. This September "Ulat Pang-mulat" goes to Barangay Vitas, Tondo, Manila. For more info call 922-9273.

Cable Picks

NEW CARTOONS! Tune in to Cartoon Network and check out the new batch of cartoon characters. Ten brand-new cartoon pilot-episodes from award-winning animators and directors have been selected. The featured cartoons in "What a Cartoon! Show" include "Captain Sturdy," "Swaroop," "Imp. Inc.," "The Kids Next Door," "Yee Hah and Doo Dah," "Major Flake," "The Utica Cartoon," "My Freaky Family," "Ferret and Parrot Cartoon Show," and "A Kitty Bobo Show." Catch them all on Sept. 21-23 at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Cartoon Network.

A World of Cuteness

*JI contributing writer **Maria Zobel Certeza** stumbles into a shop full of cats*

I WAS so excited when the people at JI told me that I would be covering an event at Hello Kitty Café.Why? Because I just love Hello Kitty! Since I can remember, I've always adored this Sanrio character.

And Hello Kitty Café is on the top of my list of the cutest places I've ever been too. I arrived at their SM City branch at exactly 10 a.m. to cover the awarding ceremony of the lemon maze winners' party.

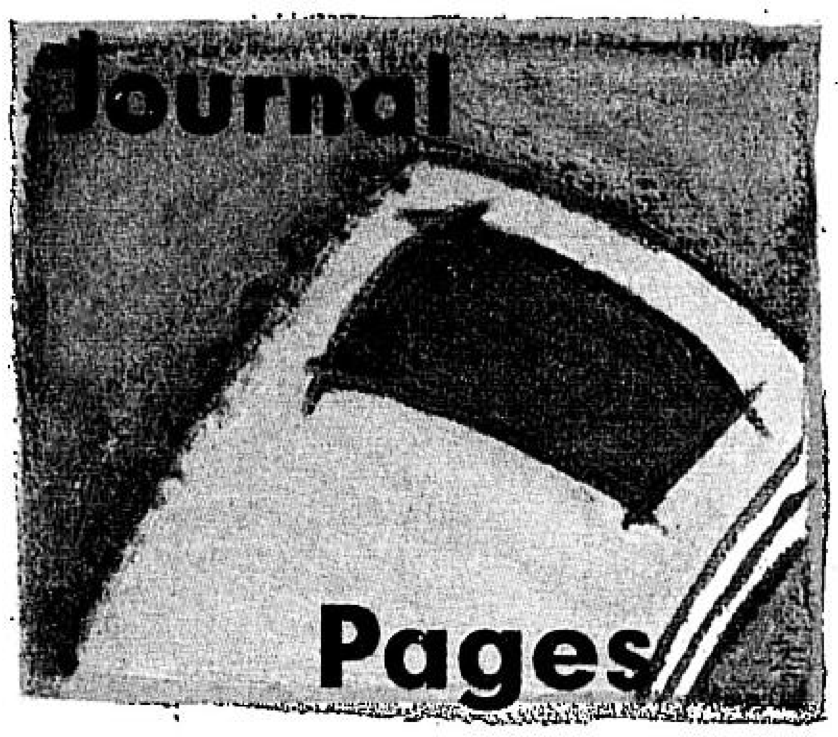
As soon as I entered the restaurant, it's like entering into a whole new world of cuteness (*feeling cute na rin ako, siyempre!*).

Hello Kitty here, Hello kitty there, Hello kitty everywhere! On their walls was a mini exhibit of different Hello Kitty memorabilia, their plates, and their character-shaped food.

But sometimes you have to think twice, you would really want to eat because of the inviting aromas. But on second thought, you might just want to stare at the food. I mean, Hello Kitty shaped pancakes? Where can you find that?

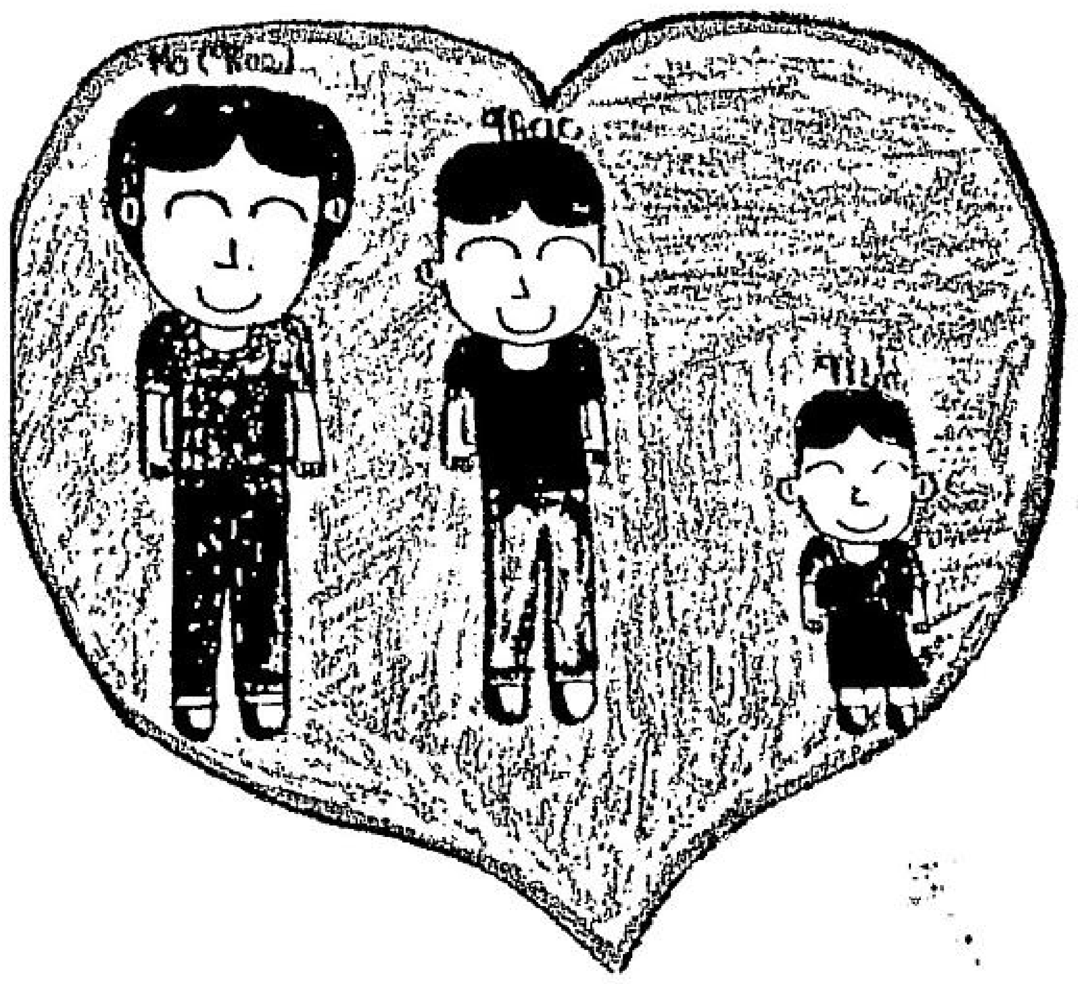
Another thing I like about Hello Kitty Café is its cool and bright atmosphere that is really kid-friendly. It is really great for Hello Kitty fanatics, young and old, because it's like eating with Hello Kitty herself. So visit Hello Kitty Café and have a date with the cutest cat in town.

Watch out for their arts and crafts workshop starting September at their SM City North branch. The workshop includes ceramic painting, cellphone case-making and a lot more! The fee is 150.



My Two Little Brothers

ESSAY AND ART
BY SHERRY MAE CHAN
GRACE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
QUEZON CITY



I HAVE two little brothers named Mac and Mic, ages 7 and 3. They are kind and good. Sometimes we quarrel, but we patch things up easily.

Even though they are very pesky or *makulit,* I love them so much. I'm so very lucky to have them.

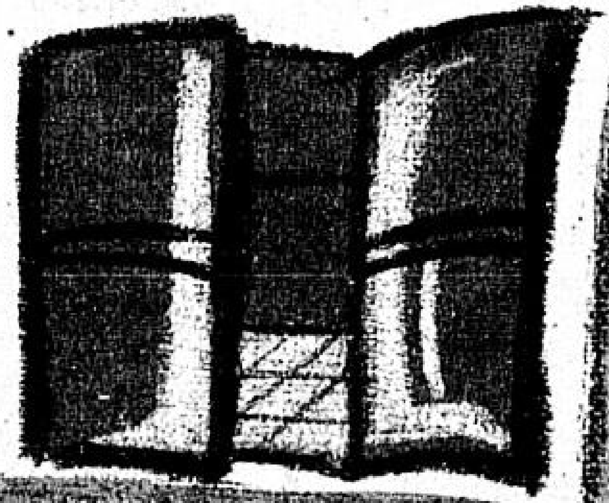
I have to treat them well, because they'll be my driver and bodyguard when we all grow up (Hi-hi-hi!)

Kidding aside, I hope we become *barkadas* and go on gimmicks together.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **jl@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



We want Shirley!

DEAR Editor,

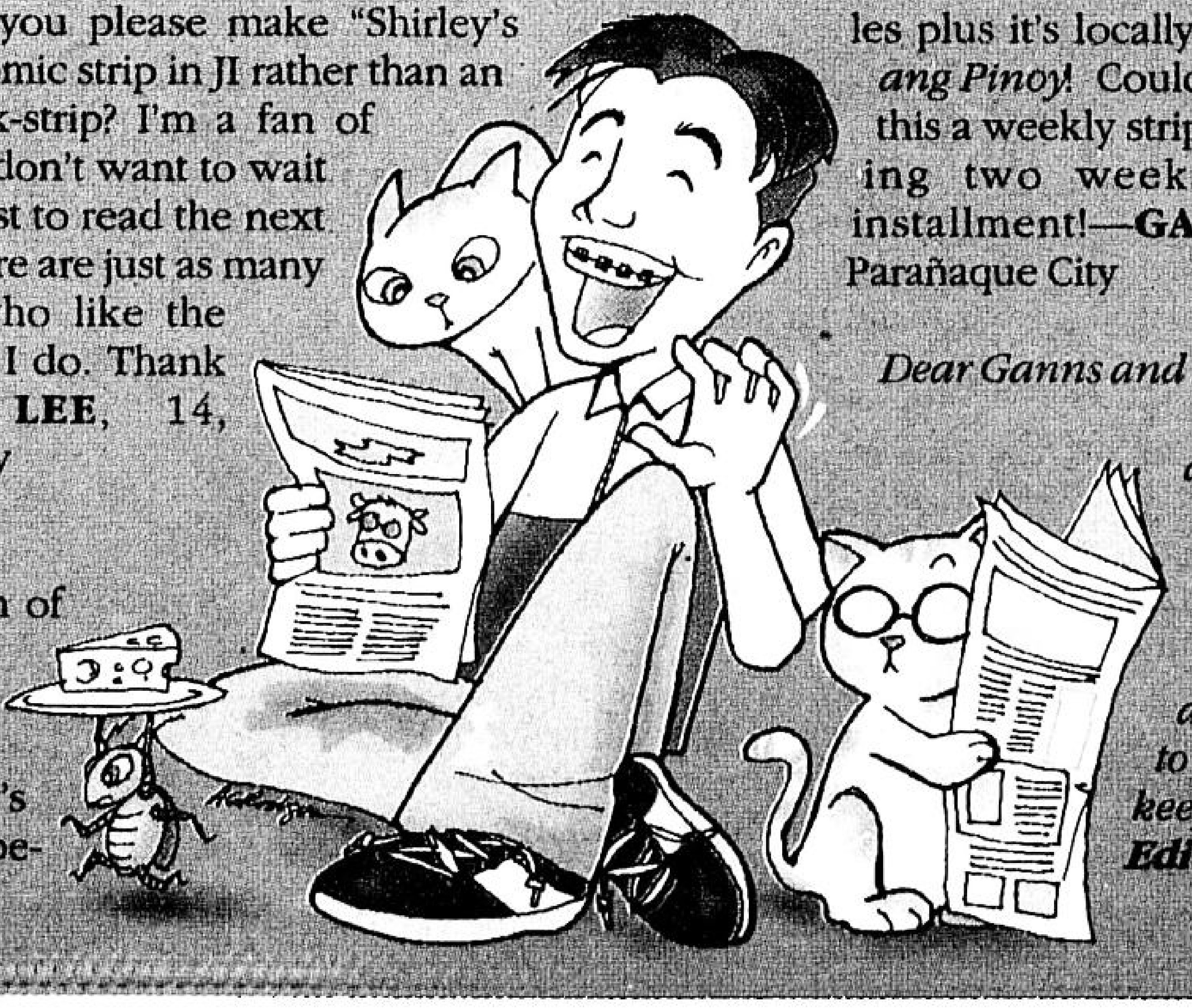
Hello! Could you please make "Shirley's Pets" a weekly comic strip in JI rather than an every-other-week-strip? I'm a fan of this comic and I don't want to wait for two weeks just to read the next strip. I'm sure there are just as many other readers who like the strip as much as I do. Thank you!—**ARVIN LEE**, 14, Mandaluyong City

Dear Editor,

I am a big fan of "Shirley's Pets." I mean, I love "Buckles," but I think that "Shirley's Pets" is doubly special because it's as entertaining as Buckles plus it's locally made! *Mabuhay ang Pinoy*! Could you please make this a weekly strip? It's torture waiting two weeks for the next installment!—**GANNS DEEN**, 24, Parañaque City

Dear Ganns and Arvin,

*Don't worry. I'll discuss this with the artist, Robert Magnuson, and the real-life Shirley, his wife. Oh and, we'll also need to consult the pets. So, keep reading!—**The Editor***



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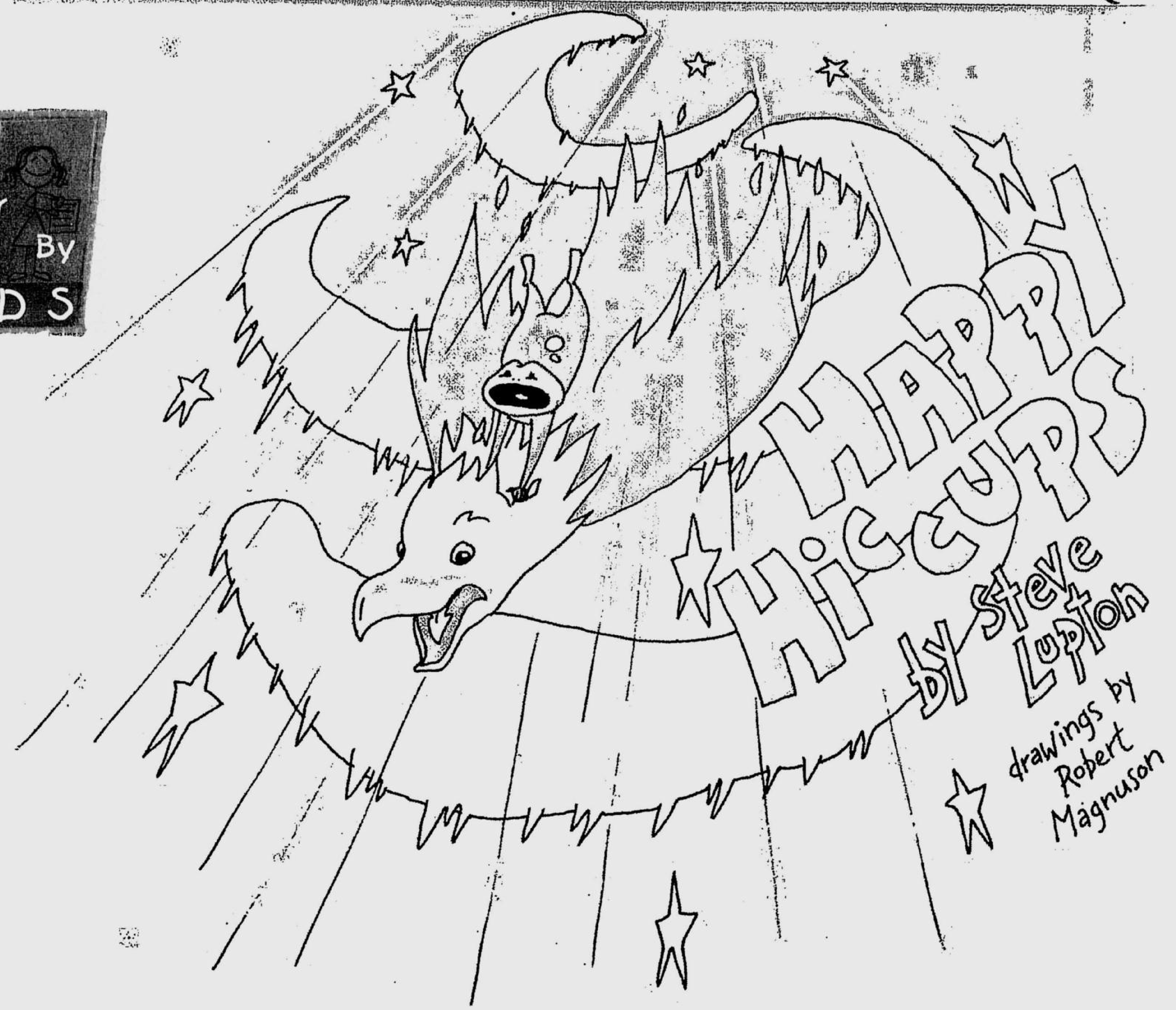


HAPPY HICCUPS

by Steve Lupton

drawings by Robert Magnuson

Happy Hiccups was a toad
He didn't want to travel by road
Because sometimes if the road wasn't lit
Happy was afraid of being hit

So Happy decided he would try to fly
This was his plan so he wouldn't die
He would try to befriend the swiftest bird
This was the best way to fly,
Haven't you heard?

He hopped up a tree
'Coz that's what he does best
And climbed into Baldy Eagle's great big nest
"Hello friend Baldy, all my love and hugs
"Please fly me to where there's lots of bugs"

"Oh hi Happy Hiccups!" he said with a stomp
"You want me to fly you to Swallow Swamp!"
"Yes I do, I need your aid,
"I need you to fly me to that everglade"

"You intend to swallow some bugs I see
"You need a ride and you need me—
"Or else you'd be flattened on the street
"By a passing car and that's not neat"

So Baldy picked him up and flew away
And Happy was on his way to a bug buffet!
While they flew a shot rang out
Baldy got hit and let out a shout

"Hunters!" he yelped " And I got shot!"
Happy cried, "We're dead,
that's what I thought!
"All of this because of my eating
"And now Baldy, you are bleeding"

Baldy said, "Worse than that my friend
"I can't fly and this will be your end"
"I can't travel by road or by air
"Now we are falling and this isn't fair"

Happy exclaimed, "But if it's me you can't carry,
"Then I'll call to the good Animal Fairy!
"Oh Animal Fairy good and kind
"make it a safe landing that we'll find"

They tumbled toward the ground really fast
When the good Animal Fairy appeared at las
"Toad and Eagle together in flight
"that is truly an awesome sight,

"What a friendship this displays
"Such I haven't seen in all my days
"An example is set for the animal race
"But hark! As I speak you're losing space,

"Now what's that spell I need to know?
"The cracks in the road
are beginning to show. . ."
Happy wasn't happy, "Please save us soon!
"Were falling fast and there's little room!"

So she said, "With all my powers, this I vow
"I shall save this toad and eagle now"

"I can fly again!" Baldy did say
"We can live to see another day!"

"Being able to breathe again is really neat
"Better still it will be neat to eat
"Imagine all those bugs I'll munch
"Insects are good when I eat lunch"

The fairy said, "Well my work here is done,
"Saving you has been lots of fun"
"thanks Animal Fairy, you are kind
"You really got us out of a bind!"

So to the swamp they finally flew
Happy looked forward to some insect stew
"Thank you Baldy how can I repay you?"
"No problem Happy, just be sure to chew!

"Be joyful because
we'll meet again someday"
And with that goodbye Baldy flew away
But it didn't mean
Happy's adventure was at an end
He could meet others and might make a friend

Swallow Swamp was big and grand
It had more insects in all the land
From mosquitoes and beetles to flies
They came in every shape and every size

Somewhere hidden beneath
the water were mosquito eggs
To a toad they taste like chicken legs
When he was about to devour them up
He saw a pretty toad he'd want
to be Mrs. Hiccup

"For a toad I'd say you're one beautiful dame
"Hello there I'm Happy Hiccups,
what is your name?"
"I'm A La Mode the Toad
and you are in my humble abode"
Happy found her so pretty
he even thought she glowed

"Oh A La Mode I love your nose
"I want to touch it before it grows
"But I also love your eyes
"They're the ones that attract the guys,"

"Below them both are your lips
"Just seeing them makes me want to do flips
"And let me praise your ears
"Their beauty brings me to tears,

"I have to say your skin's so fine
"It makes your face look so divine
"A La Mode you have an original face
"Let me adore it before it breaks!"

"Thanks a lot, you're not bad yourself
So I'll tell you to beware of the evil Tree Elf
He's got magical powers
and frogs is what he eats
He's not honest and in fact he cheats

"Thanks for the warning, it shows you care
"And it means so much from one so fair
"you are cute, you are sweet
"You have a personality that's really neat,"

"You are good, you are kind
"A toad like you is hard to find
"I'll say it once I'll say it twice—
"A La Mode, you're really nice!"

"I say you are pretty
and that makes lots of sense
"You obviously got your looks
from your parents
"Since I haven't seen one like you
in all my life
"I ask you now to be my wife"

"Oh Happy I'll have to answer you a bit later
"Because right behind you is a Crocigator!
"It is the servant of the evil Tree Elf
"Once I almost got captured by it myself"

Snap! Went the crocigator's jaws
And slash! went the crocigator's claws
Happy pushed A La Mode aside
He was determined to save his future bride

"Oh wicked beast I'm going to let you run
"I warn you now,
I'm going to protect my honey bun"
"No, it is you who should flee
We are alone now as you can see. . ."

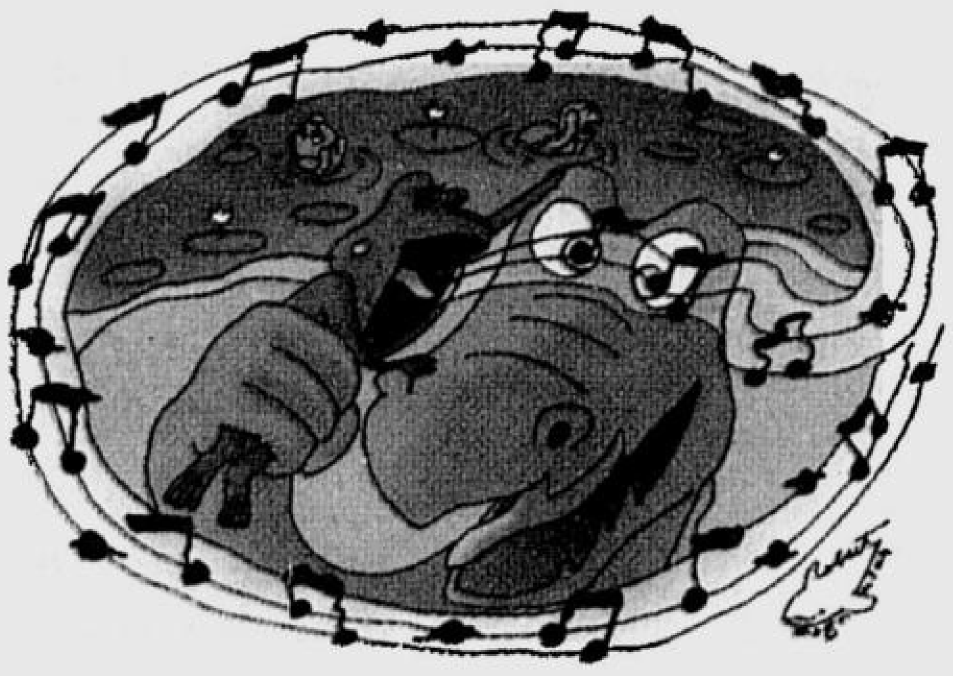
Sure enough A La Mode was gone
The Elf had gotten her and had withdrawn
Happy hopped on top of Crocigator's snout
He jumped up and down and let out a shout,

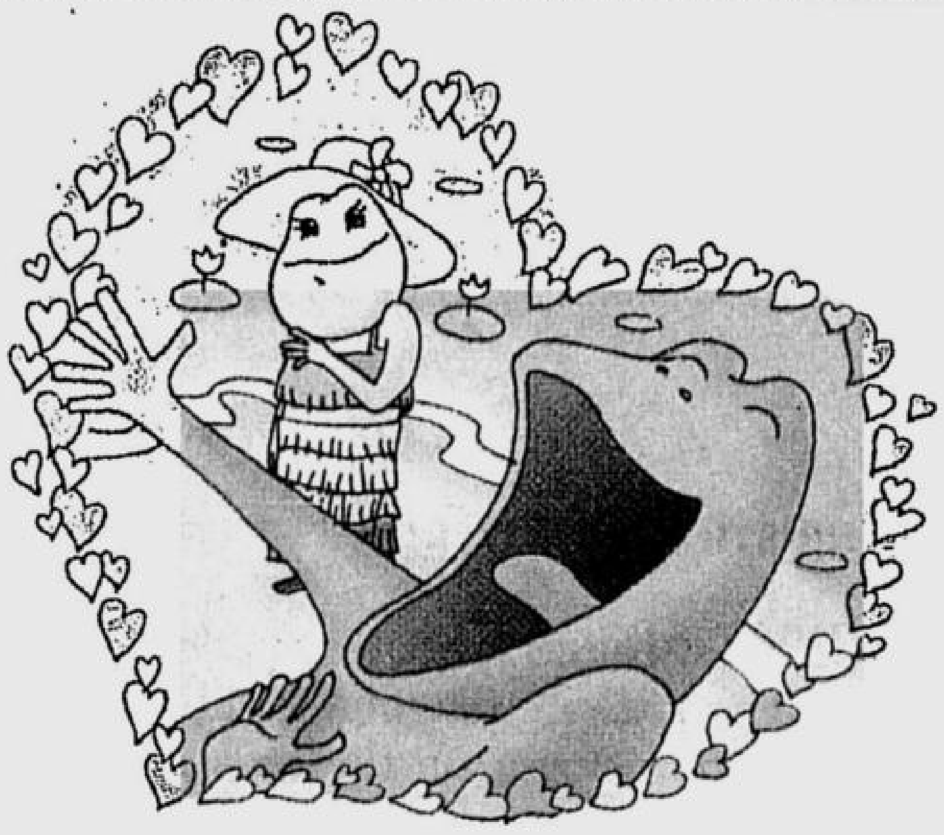
"Do you give up oh wicked beast?"
"No I don't—you shall be my master's feast!"
"Then you leave me no choice!"
And he began to sing and toads have no voice!

"Stop singing, I surrender now
"I'm stronger, but your singing—wow!"
"Although I know you couldn't care
"Help me find your master's lair"

"Or I shall sing into your ears
"And you will suffer for many years"
"Please no, I'll be good
"I'll do anything that I should"

Happy said "So lead the way!"
The Crocigator said "Whatever you say!"
Soon they were at the biggest tree





Where she was trapped and he'd set her free

The Tree Elf said,
"I see you've come to my dinner,
"I shall defeat you and be the winner"
A La Mode said, "Happy,
escape while you can
"Or else you'll end up in his frying pan!"

"No my dear I've come to rescue you
"I shall defeat him and that is true!
"And when I do I shall give you a ring
So now A La mode I'll begin to sing!"

And he sang and he sang but it had no effect
Somehow the elf could take it—
that you can bet
"What is this? I'm so scared—oh gee!
"Your stupid singing has no effect on me!"

All of a sudden music filled the tree
A La Mode was singing happily
The elf said, "That is music to my ears
"It's so wonderful it brings me to tears,"

"I can't eat you and that is a fact
"My heart goes out to you and that is no act
"Leave now and go in peace
"My evil doings shall now cease"

"Be well friend elf we'll leave you here
"the swamp will be happy and not live in fear
"As for us Happy, I think we should be two
"I say to your proposal, yes, I do!"

So they got married
and their marriage was legal
The Animal Fairy came
and so did Baldy Eagle
It was the best wedding
from the West to the East
Happy was happy and he got to feast!

The End

***Steve** graduated from the College of Mass Communications taking up Broadcast Communications in 1989, in UP Diliman. He was a radio announcer until 1997 for 101.1 Kiss Fm and Dolphin One Productions.*

***Robert** is the creator of "Shirley's Pets." He is a member of Kuwentista ng mga Tsikiting.*

Shining Soon

A young performer is on the brink of making her biggest dream come true

BY **CHRISTINE C. RIVERO**

Kids 'r'rrific

HERE'S a familiar scenario. Parents are at a party. The kids are playing. Suddenly, the parents swoop down on the kids and one kid ends up with a mike shoved in her hand. She's commanded to sing. She ends up crying.

Now here's a not-so-familiar scenario. At a party, a little girl stands on her tiptoes and reaches for the mike. Nobody needs to ask her to sing. In fact, she'll even sing without a mike and, unless stopped, she'll keep on singing the whole night.

That little girl isn't so little anymore and she's turning 11 on Sept. 17. She's Nicole Angela Nepomuceno Juladelena but everyone calls her Nica.

And Nica could very well be the next big star.

Audition here, audition there

"When I see actors and actresses on TV, I'm really amazed by them," says Nica, a fifth-grader at Miriam College Grade School. Which is why, she says, she wants to be both a singer and an actress.

It's a dream Nica has had ever since she can remember. At first she started auditioning for commercials.

"I've been in a lot of auditions for commercials, but I've never been in a commercial here," she says.

The one time she did pass an audition, Nica appeared only briefly and the commercial, which was for a foreign ice cream brand, was only shown in Guam.

She didn't give up, though, even after she auditioned for a children's TV show in February and still failed to get in.

When that same show had a second round of auditions in April, Nica begged her family to let her try again.

"I didn't want her to go anymore because she had a sore throat," says Nica's mom.

Their whole family, though, had a heart to heart talk about it and finally Nica's brother said, "Mom, maybe it's her time."

And it certainly was. Nica passed the auditions, sore throat and all. Now, after months of workshops and tapings, folks will be seeing that show on TV very, very soon.

Star or Scholar?

So that's it, right? She made her dream come true, end of story. Well, not quite. The dream could come to an abrupt end if show biz gets in the way of Nica's studies.

"If my grades go down, my mom is going to take me out," she says with a knowing grin.

There doesn't seem to be any danger of that, though, because Nica makes sure she studies in between her appearances in the studio.

"And I don't watch TV anymore," she adds, "when I study, I study far away from the TV."

Nica has to keep an outstanding average, otherwise she'll lose the scholarship she now has at her school.

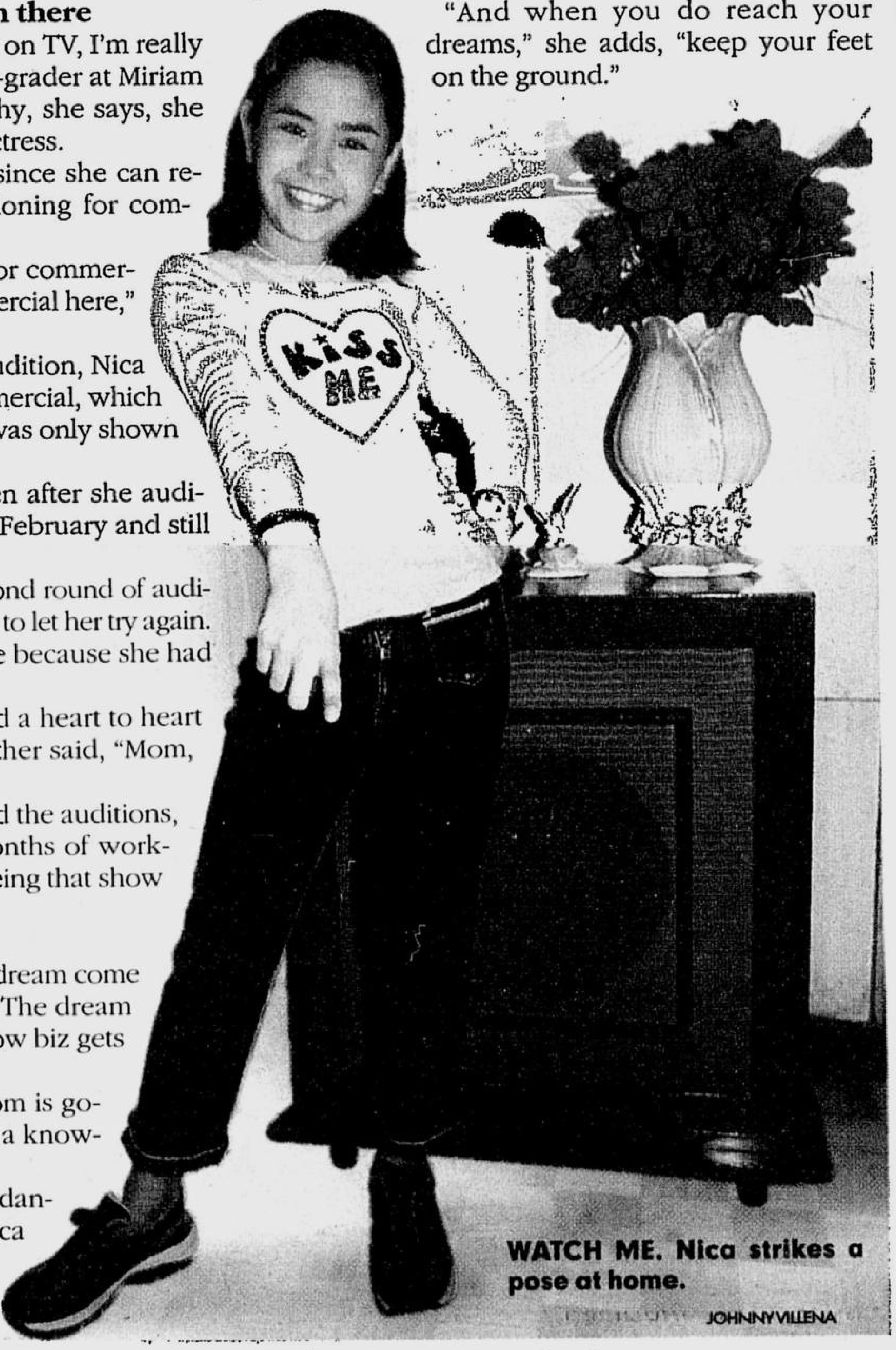
If ever she is made to choose between studies and her dreams, Nica knows what choice she'll make.

"I can always come back to (show biz) when I graduate," she says, "it's never too late."

"Giving up" isn't something that's in Nica's vocabulary. Coming back from one failed audition after another, she says, taught her that one must "never lose hope."

"Before I wasn't taken in also and it really made me feel sad," says Nica, "but just hope, pray and try again."

"And when you do reach your dreams," she adds, "keep your feet on the ground."



WATCH ME. Nica strikes a pose at home.

JOHNNY VILLENA

R RRIFIC

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a **free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kid 'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate: ____________________

Age: ________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

____
____
____
____
____
____
____
____

She/he lives at

____
____
____

and studies at

____

Her/his contact number is:

____

Sender's Name:

____

Sender's Age & School:

________, ____________________

Sender's Address:

____
____

Sender's Contact No.

____

Uncle Scuba

On land or underwater, Andrea's Tito Dindo is busy saving the sea

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

FIVE-YEAR-OLD Andrea Narciso has seen a lot of fish. "Some are medium, some are small, some are big," she says, "they have many, many, many colors."

"Some fishies grow," she adds. Pointing to the arowana in her grandmother's aquarium, Andrea notes, "It's going to get more and more big until it cannot fit (in the aquarium.)"

"I'm going to put it in another jar that's bigger than the earth!" she exclaims.

Just where are you going to find a jar like that, we ask her.

Andrea then runs over to her *Tito* Dino and whispers loudly in his ear. Chuckling, *Tito* Dindo tells us, "She says it's in the sea of Palawan."

"And my *Tito* Dindo will get it for me," Andrea declares with a wide grin.

Andrea's *Tito* Dindo Mejia has been scuba-diving for a long time now, usually to check on the corals and just see how they're doing. "The beauty under there, there's nothing like the corals," he says.

For a time, he worked with the World Wildlife Fund-Philippines and *Tito* Dindo was one of the guys in charge of protecting the Tubbataha Reef in the Visayas.

"We patrolled against illegal fishermen, sometimes even during a storm," he relates. His team would also work at night and more than once they had to engage in high-speed boat chases after those illegal fishermen.

Now *Tito* Dindo is still a WWF volunteer but his new job keeps him on dry land more often. He helps convince big businesses to do their part in saving our planet.

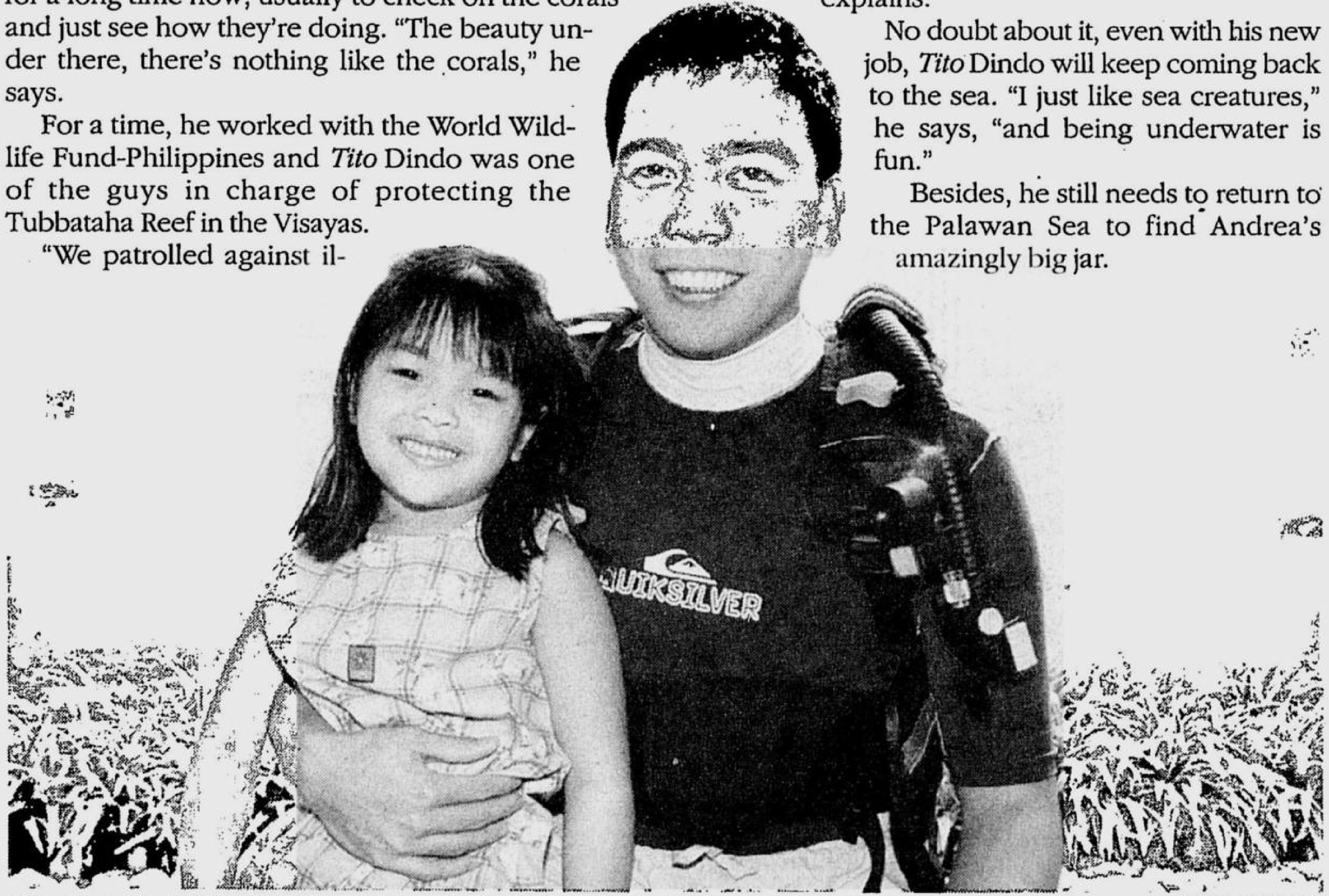
Way back when he was in high school, *Tito* Dindo says he realized that our planet was in big trouble.

"Our population keeps growing and at the rate we're going through our resources, I thought back then, boy, we really have to do something about this."

It begins, *Tito* Dindo says, by "being aware of our actions and how it affects the planet." Not littering, for example, can actually help protect a sea creature. "If you throw a piece of plastic, it could end up in the ocean where turtles could die from eating it," he explains.

No doubt about it, even with his new job, *Tito* Dindo will keep coming back to the sea. "I just like sea creatures," he says, "and being underwater is fun."

Besides, he still needs to return to the Palawan Sea to find Andrea's amazingly big jar.



CAN HE DO IT? Andrea has a special mission for her *Tito* Dindo.

VALHANDUMON

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ____________________.
He/She is ____ years old and is my ____________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)____________________;
2)____________________;
3)____________________;
4)____________________;
and
5)____________________.

My nominee lives at ____________________.
Give him/her a call at ____________________ or send him/her an e-mail at ____________________.
By the way, I'm ____________________.
I'm ______ years old.
My address is ____________________.
You may call me at ____________________.

Brazil–The Last Explorer

(from page1)

joined the Roncador-Xingu expedition that then-President Getulio Vargas ordered during World War 2 to tame Brazil's interior. They were to build roads and airfields and consolidate control over the territory, known in Portuguese as the *sertao.*

Along the mighty Xingu river and its tributaries, Orlando, Claudio and Leonardo made contact with more than 100 tribes whose way of life had not changed for centuries.

With support from Marshal Candido Rondon—a pioneer who wired Brazil for the telegraph, took Teddy Roosevelt into the *sertao* for big game hunting and headed the country's first Indian protection agency—the brothers founded Brazil's first Indian reservation in 1961, the Xingu Indigenous National Park.

Dignity for Indians

"Then, the old idea that the Indian was a beast was common currency," said Villas Boas. "But what we showed to Brazilian society was that we had made contact with communities that were at peace, full of joy."

"I lived with them for 40 years and I never saw a mother twist her daughter's ear or a father give his son a slap," he added. "It was, and is, a fantastic thing, a revolutionary concept."

The brothers' battle to protect the people current President Fernando Henrique Cardoso has called "the first Brazilians in history" was based on four points that Orlando still defends vehemently:

- Keep other Brazilians and tourists out of the reserves.
- Do not impose "white man's logic."
- Refrain from meddling in village affairs.
- Keep traditional healers' medicinal knowledge out of the hands of "biotech pirates" who sell rare flora and fauna to pharmaceutical companies in rich nations.

Today, both Orlando and Marina worry about the fate of the 12,000 Indians living in Xingu and the nearby reserves of Kayopo and Gorotire that together cover an area about the size of Florida.

For Villas Boas, the outcome is already clear: the likely extinction of the Indian.

"The Indian can only survive in his own habitat," he said. "There is no place for the Indian in the Brazilian society of today."

AP

¿ThinkathoN?
BY BONG BARRAMEDA

SEA Games Stars

THE 21ST Southeast Asian Games—the Olympics of the Asean region—opens today in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We mark this occasion, we've listed 12 Filipino athletes who earned gold and glory in past celebrations of the Games. Do you know what sport each of them starred in?

1. **Lydia de Vega-Mercado**
    A. track and field
    B. karate-do
    C. equestrian

2. **Hector Calma**
    X. cycling
    Y. badminton
    Z. basketball

3. **Bea Lucero**
    A. gymnastics
    B. diving
    C. fencing

4. **Eric Buhain**
    X. water polo
    Y. swimming
    Z. triathlon

5. **Dyan Castillejo**
    A. lawn tennis
    B. rowing
    C. table tennis

6. **Roberto Cruz**
    X. taekwondo
    Y. volleyball
    Z. long jump

7. **Bong Coo**
    A. squash
    B. hockey
    C. bowling

8. **Herman Suizo**
    X. decathlon
    Y. marathon
    Z. billiards

9. **Jennifer Rosales**
    A. equestrian
    B. golf
    C. football

10. **Rey Fortaleza**
    X. yachting
    Y. boxing
    Z. bodybuilding

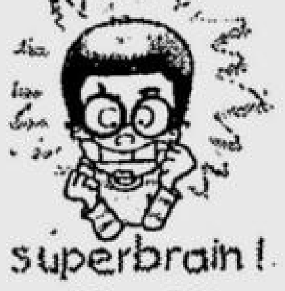
11. **Jennifer Yeo**
    A. shooting
    B. wushu
    C. squash

12. **Jaime Sebastian**
    X. sepak takraw
    Y. shot put
    Z. weightlifting

Answers :

1. A 7. C
2. Z 8. Y
3. A 9. B
4. Y 10. Y
5. A 11. B
6. X 12. Z

Ratings :


superbrain !
11 - 12

excellent !
9 - 10

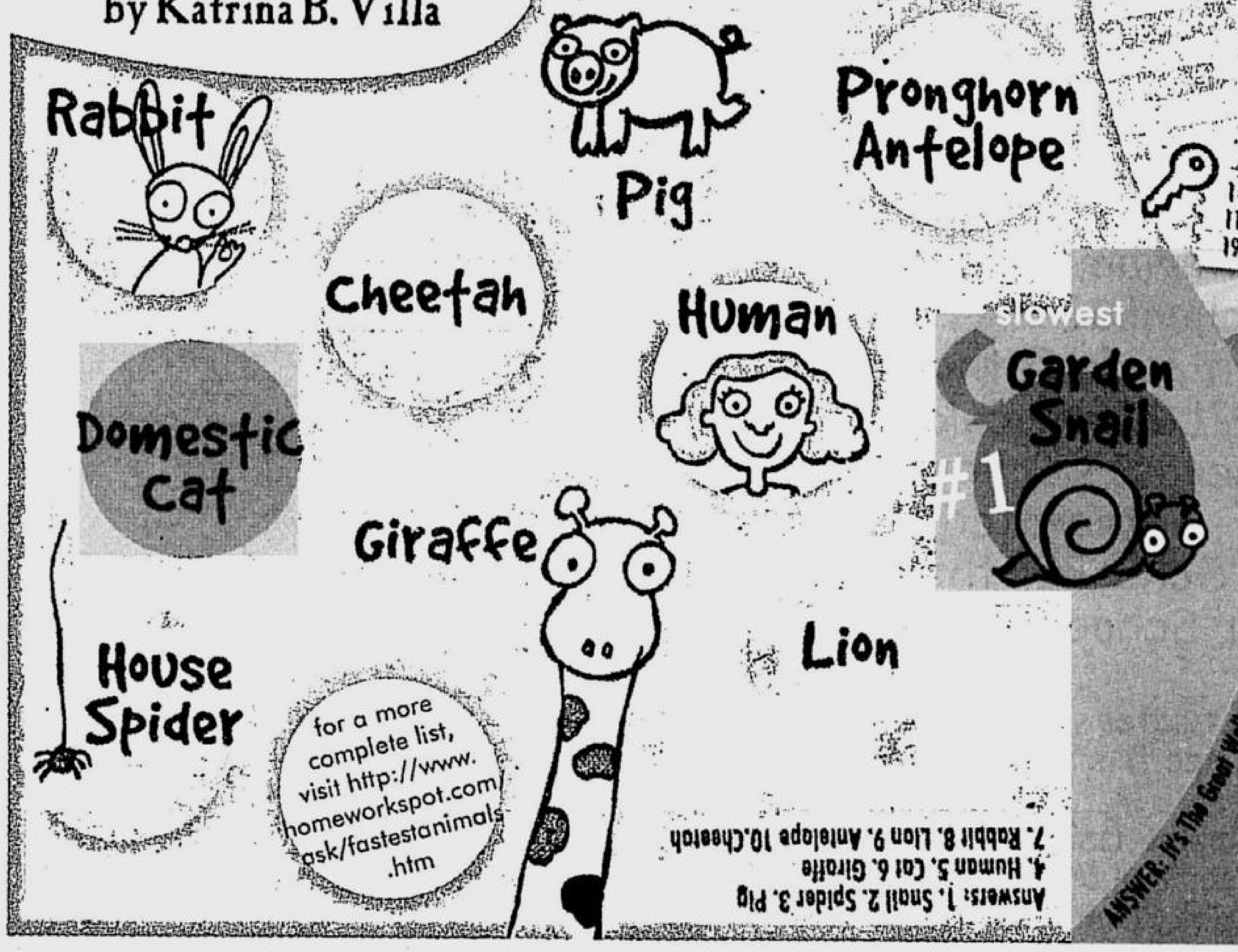
good !
7 - 8

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

Who's the FASTEST of them all?

How fast do you think can these animals go? Number them from the slowest to the fastest. We've identified the slowest for you.


Rabbit
Pig
Pronghorn Antelope
Cheetah
Human
slowest
Garden Snail
#1
Domestic Cat
Giraffe
Lion
House Spider

for a more complete list, visit http://www.homeworkspot.com/ask/fastestanimals.htm

Answers: 1. Snail 2. Spider 3. Pig 4. Human 5. Cat 6. Giraffe 7. Rabbit 8. Lion 9. Antelope 10.Cheetah

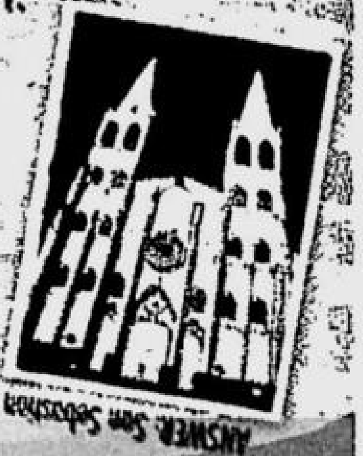
NOY'S NOTEBOOK

Guess what I just found out?
Right in Manila stands the only church in Asia made entirely out of steel! Inaugurated in 1891, it's a product of the efforts of people from many different countries -- the sculptors and painters were Filipino, the architects were Spanish, the steelmakers were Belgian, the engineers were French...the list goes on and on.

BREAK THE CODE TO FIND THE NAME OF THIS CHURCH!

☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
19 1 14 19 5 2 1 19 20 9 1 14

1=A; 2=B; 3=C; 4=D; 5=E; 6=F; 7=G; 8=H; 9=I; 10=J;
11=K; 12=L; 13=M; 14=N; 15=O; 16=P; 17=Q; 18=R
19=S; 20=T; 21=U; 22=V; 23=W; 24=X; 25=Y; 26=Z



ANSWER: San Sebastian

AH-MAZING!

Work on this structure started more than 2,000 years ago, and up until the 14th century, it was still being enlarged and rebuilt. Originally meant to keep invaders out of China, it's about 8 million feet long and can be seen from outer space!

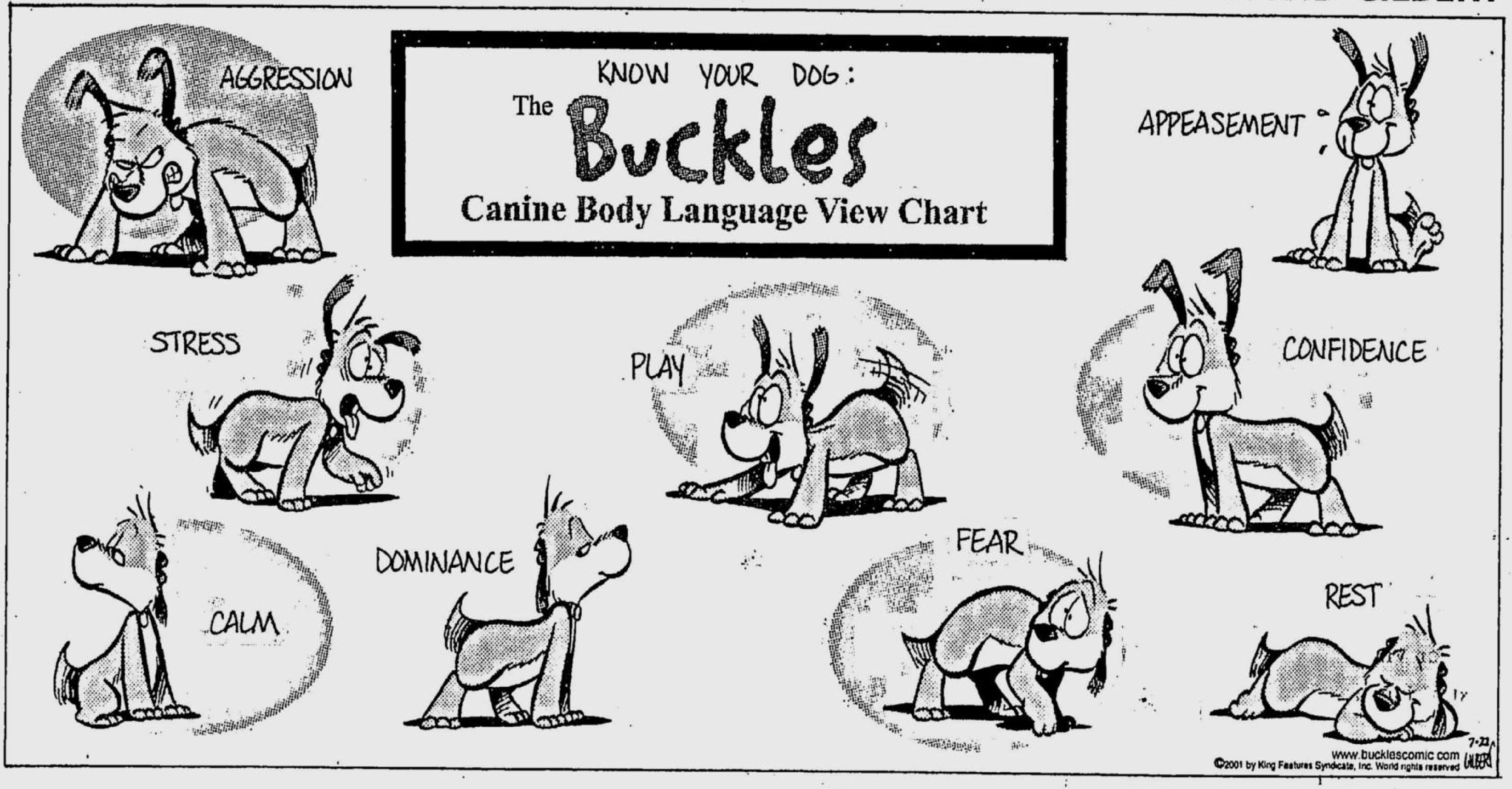
Is it...

- ● The Eiffel Tower in Paris?
- ● The Great Wall of China?
- ● The Leaning Tower of Pisa?
- ● The Taj Mahal in India?

ANSWER: It's The Great Wall of China!

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


KNOW YOUR DOG:
The Buckles
Canine Body Language View Chart
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APPEASEMENT
STRESS
PLAY
CONFIDENCE
CALM
DOMINANCE
FEAR
REST
7-22
GILBERT

www.bucklescomic.com

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Hey, kids!

Find out from the list below if you're one of the hundreds who took time to do the Shrek Activity Page.

1. Jaimee Ann Allado - SEED Montessori School
2. Marie Angelene Revereza - Sto. Nino Parochial School
3. Patricia M. Bustamante - Miriam College Grade School
4. Ma. Nicola C. de Vera - School of the Holy Spririt of Quezon City
5. Charmaine Anne Sy - Saint Jude Catholic School
6. Denice Mari R. Ambrosio - La Immaculada Concepcion School
7. Illin Rodriguez - Saint Theresa's College Quezon City
8. Denis Thomas S. Dasallas - Integrated Montessori Center
9. Mariella Lisse M. Salita - School of the Holy Spirit of Quezon City
10. Janssen Ongaigui - Xavier School

If you are on the list, Junior Inquirer congratulates you for you have just won a Junior Inquirer package.
You may claim your prize from Ms. Masoy or Ms. Hazel at:

Philippine Daily Inquirer
Junior Inquirer Marketing Office
2/F PDI Building, Don Chino Roces Avenue
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.
Tel. Nos. 899-4427 / 897-8808 loc. 237

Just a reminder: Don't forget to bring your School ID when you claim your prize:

Thanks for joining! Till next time!

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